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Comments: Please consider this message as our comment on the Pre-decisional Environmental Assessment for the Pinnacles Dispersed Recreation Management Project. I (George) visited this region of South Dakota on assignment during my military service in the US Air Force, as Ellsworth AFB is only 50 miles away.

We heartily support the Forest Service's effort to reduce impacts on the lands and wildlife habitat of the Pinnacles. It is necessary to limit dispersed camping, or it will spread more and more impacts against the wildlife habitat. We have seen the results of unregulated camping in our travels in national forests and BLM public lands in the West. In some places the dispersed camping has left bare soil in large patches that can be seen easily on Google Satellite View. That leads to sites that are not pleasant places to camp, and that are essentially without value as wildlife habitat.

We applaud the analysis in the Pre-decisional EA. Photographs in the EA clearly show the unacceptable impacts of unregulated dispersed camping against the vegetation and wildlife habitat values. It is time to set limits, for the good of the natural resources and for the better enjoyment of visitors.

We support Alternative 2, which limits dispersed camping to 70 designated sites. However, the Forest Service should monitor the impacts at that level and, if necessary, close heavily impacted sites, reducing the total below 70. Please add that monitoring function in the final decision.

We also urge the FS to reduce the impacts of off-road vehicles. The EA mentions "illegal off-roading" as one of the problems to be addressed (EA page 6), but we could find no measures in Alternative 2 that would reduce illegal off-roading. Please clarify in the final decision what will be done to reduce the impacts of illegal off-roading.

We thank the Forest Service staff for this thoughtful EA, and we look forward to the final decision.