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Comments: Black Hills Fly Fishers

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U.S. Forest Service

Northern Hills Ranger District

2014 N. Main Street

Spearfish, SD 57783

Subject: Support for Silver Creek Riparian Restoration #64119

Dear U.S. Forest Service,

We, the members of the Black Hills Fly Fishers organization, are writing to express our wholehearted support for the Silver Creek Riparian Restoration project #64119. We applaud the comprehensive approach taken in this proposal, particularly the inclusion of beaver dam analogs to recharge the water table.

The utilization of beaver dam analogs is a proven and innovative technique that mimics the natural hydrological processes of beavers, resulting in numerous benefits for the riparian ecosystem. By creating structures that slow down water flow, these analogs increase water retention, foster groundwater recharge, and promote the overall health of the stream system. This approach has been successful in restoring riparian habitat and enhancing fishery resources in various locations across the country.

We firmly believe that incorporating beaver dam analogs in the Silver Creek Riparian Restoration project will provide substantial and lasting benefits. It will not only improve water availability and stream flow but also create valuable habitat for native fish species as well as trout. This project will enhance the overall ecological integrity of the watershed.

We urge the U.S. Forest Service to prioritize and support proposal #64119, ensuring that beaver dam analogs are a key component of the restoration efforts. The Black Hills Fly Fishers organization is committed to actively participating in this project through volunteer work, public outreach, and financial contributions.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. We appreciate your dedication to the preservation and enhancement of our natural resources, and we are confident that the implementation of Silver Creek Riparian Restoration #64119 will have a positive and lasting impact on the health of the ecosystem.

Sincerely,

Hans Stephenson

Board Member/Habitat Committee Chair

Black Hills Fly Fishers

PO Box 1621, Rapid City, SD 57709-1621