

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 6/19/2023 8:44:24 PM

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Title:

Comments: I wish to express my opposition to the proposed withdrawal of 20,574 acres in the Black Hills National Forest. Almost 2/3s of the 650 million acres in our nation managed by the federal government are off limits or are severely restricted to mineral exploration. This has resulted in the Unites States being severely dependent on foreign imports for its minerals, particularly from China and other nations not aligned with our policies and protection of our freedoms. Continual removal of public lands from mineral exploration will only exacerbate our current strategic weaknesses in our supply chain. Obviously, there is enough land already set aside. For mineral exploration and development on the remaining open public lands significant and sufficient laws and regulations are in place to protect the environment while providing needed natural resources and employment for the betterment and security of our citizens. It is time to stop these withdrawals.

Thank you for considering this comment.