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Organization:

Title:

Comments: To Whom it may concern:

As a homeowner on SandCreek County Club (SCCC), I have concerns with the scope of the North Sand Forest Management Project. Although the overall acreage is small (11,062), this area has significant meaning to our family and other members of SCCC. We treasure the beauty of the magnificent limestone rim rocks, the botanic specimens in Dugout Gulch, the recreation opportunities and the watershed of Sand Creek.

Historically logging has been a useful tool in forest management. It seems that now days the Regulatory Agency has been transferred to the politicians and the timber industry. We don't want the natural beauty of the land to be compromised or impoverished and certainly not turned into a tree farm. Some of the areas in the Black Hills have been logged as many as three times in 15 years. In many of these areas we do not see evidence of restorative actions such as weed control and the thinning of small trees. Steep slope logging is not only expensive with special equipment needed but it can harm the understory and the rim rocks. The management goals of the Black Hills National Forest sounds good on paper but we are concerned whether they will be actualized. I hope you understand my concerns and those of my neighbors.

Sincerely. Sam L Mortimer, MD