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Organization:

Title:

Comments: Peter Schulman and Bradley Brei are homeowners on Sand Creek Road. We, and many of our neighbors, have serious concerns about the above-referenced project, some of which are enumerated and discussed in this letter. Our concerns include the following: 1) Speed and Safety 2) Road Damage and Remediation 3) Dust Control, Damage and Remediation 4) Project Details, Including Reduction in Forest Fire Risks 5) Documentation and Enforcement A brief discussion of our concerns in each of the above categories follows.

SPEED AND SAFETY Sand Creek Road, and many other roads in the Northern Black Hills, are narrow and have several hills and blind turns. Those of us to live here have experienced several and frequent instances of large trucks, including logging trucks, traveling at high speeds, and many of us have also experienced near misses. The proposed project will significantly increase logging and other contractor traffic, posing a wide range of threats to our community and residents. Also, a project of this scope and duration will include increased traffic during the late fall, winter and early spring, significantly increasing risks due to weather and road conditions (discussed in the next section of this letter).

ROAD DAMAGE AND REMEDIATION Particularly during the late fall, winter and early spring, under existing conditions, the condition of Sand Creek Road deteriorates. Depending on the weather, the condition of Sand Creek Road can become hazardous. Increased traffic on Sand Creek Road by logging trucks and other large commercial vehicles will significantly exacerbate adverse road conditions.

DUST CONTROL, DAMAGE AND REMEDIATION Currently, most of the traffic on Sand Creek Road are residents' and visitors' cars and pickup trucks. Large commercial vehicles increase dust by several orders of magnitude. We have all had the experience of being behind big commercial vehicles or having those vehicles pass in the opposite direction, and the dust can create dust "whiteouts." A significant increase in logging trucks will increase dust, significantly increasing health and safety conditions and causing property damage, particularly to homes close to the road.

PROJECT DETAILS, INCLUDING REDUCTION IN FOREST FIRE RISKS It takes more than thinning forests to mitigate fire risks. Fuel on the forest floor must also be removed. Loggers make their money from logs, not forest floor debris.

DOCUMENTATION AND ENFORCEMENT Rules and regulations must accompany this project plan, if it progresses towards approval. Perhaps even more importantly, there must be efficient and functional enforcement measures in place, for reasons discussed in the next section of this letter.

OUR OBSERVATIONS AND EXPERIENCES We, and many of our neighbors, have lived through large Federal construction projects. The government makes promises and the contractors ignore them. The contractors do what is in their financial best interests and leave the residents to clean up and pay for the contractor's messes and unfinished work. That may be the way of things, but it is not acceptable. What are you going to do to assure our communities that this project, if approved, will fully meet expectations, on timely and contemporaneous basis, including remedies for all foreseeable and unforeseeable adverse consequences and damages.