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Organization:

Title:

Comments: My name is Reed Beldin, and I am a resident of Sturgis, South Dakota. I frequently enjoy a range of activities in the Black Hills National Forest, both on private and public lands. I've noticed a significant difference in how private landowners manage their property compared to the government's approach to public land management, particularly in the area of forestry.

I've experienced firsthand the excessive bureaucracy involved in managing public lands. A few years ago, after a wildfire swept through the forest south of Pringle, SD, my father visited the U.S. Forest Service office in Custer, SD, to obtain a permit to harvest firewood from the burned trees. Since firewood is the primary heat source for my parents' home, this was a semi urgent need of theirs. However, he was informed that an environmental survey would need to be completed before he could purchase a permit. When he asked how long the survey would take, he was told that the last one took 10 years to complete. Given that trees begin to rot within a year of being burned, this delay is not only frustrating but also wasteful of our natural resources.

As a taxpayer, it is disheartening to see our resources mismanaged. I strongly urge you to consider allowing private industry to take a more active role in forestry management practices.