Data Submitted (UTC 11): 9/15/2024 4:00:00 AM First name: brent Last name: cox Organization:

Title:

Comments: I was born in the Black Hills of South Dakota more than seventy years ago, and have lived here most of my life. I have been witness to the most intense logging of any forest in the nation. When I was a young adult I went to work as a tree cutter in the Northern Hills. I was told to cut all the marked trees and later told to cut all of the big trees as well. The actions of the company I worked for were illegal so I reported this to the Black Hills Nation Forest offices in Custer and left the job. I gave the Forest Service my address and phone number where they could contact me. After not hearing from the forest service I called them back, yet they did not respond. This non action for these kinds of violations of the rules proved to be symptomatic of the way the old growth was treated by those in power. I believe that there was just too much money in the big trees. It is time to protect what is left of the Old Growth in the Black Hills National Forest.