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Comments: This is in response to the Sierra Club's flyer regarding the proposed action to end the cutting of old-growth trees and, in particular, the over-cutting in the Black Hills National Forest. I live in a community of 25 homes that dates back to 1928, located in the Black Hills about 4 miles south of Beulah Wyoming, next to the South Dakota border. I support the efforts outlined in the Sierra Club's flyer. I also think I speak for many of the members of our community and our neighboring communities.

The Sierra Club's timing correlates with a recent meeting I had with Patrick Champa, District Ranger, USDA Forest Service's Bearlodge Ranger District (the "District"), and a member of the District's staff. Our meeting was regarding a proposed deforestation and fire remediation project referred to as the North Sand Forest Management Project. At our meeting, we also discussed my concerns about over-forestation of the Black Hills, on both the South Dakota and Wyoming sides of the state's borders. For the record, Mr. Champa and his staff could not have been more professional and helpful, for which I am greatly appreciative.

In preparation for my meeting with Mr. Champa, I did some research from available public information. My research was initially for the purpose of understanding the local logging industry, including the "income beneficiaries" of logging, i.e., loggers, lumber mills and others.

I am a forensic accountant and author, so this sort of preparation is a familiar process to me.

There are many income beneficiaries to the logging industry, ranging from solo contractors to large institutional enterprises. To the extent that I was able to access information available from public sources, Neiman Enterprises emerged as the proverbial "elephant in the living room."

Following is an extract of my June 8, 2024 report to our community and its HOA regarding the results of my research:

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Neiman Enterprises (the "Company") is a large, private, family-owned, forest products company based in Hulett Wyoming. Based on information available in the public domain (including the Wyoming Secretary of State's website), Neiman Enterprises includes at least 21 affiliated companies, some of which are sawmills and trucking companies. The Company's operations include the Black Hills in South Dakota and Wyoming.

Neiman Enterprises (the "Company") is a fourth-generation company dating back to 1936, according to the Company's website and other sources... available in the public domain. The President and CEO of Neiman Enterprises is Jim D. Neiman in Hulett WY.

Chip Neiman, who also lives in Hulett, was elected to the Wyoming House of Representatives for the 1st District, which includes Crook County. Wyoming State house representatives serve two-year terms. In 2022, Chip [Neiman] was reelected for a second term, and he was (and currently is) the Wyoming House Majority Floor Leader.

According to the Wyoming Secretary of State's public database, between July 15, 2021 and April 23, 2023, Chip Neiman's election campaigns received \$5.8 million. The source of those funds is described as the "Committee to elect Chip Neiman to House District 1." I could not locate the source(s) of the contributions to the Committee to Elect.

Senator Ogden Driskill is the President of the Wyoming Senate and has been in office since 2011. My understanding is Senator Driskill lives in the Hulett area (he has a Devils Tower PO Box), but I was not able to locate his physical address.

For the record, none of the foregoing is intended to be prejudicial. There many unanswered questions. For example, what are the familial or other relationships, if any, between Neiman Enterprises and its principals, to Representative Chip Neiman, Senator Ogden Driskal and others in Wyoming government? My understanding is that the Company is located in Wyoming, and its scope of operations include the Black Hills in South Dakota and Wyoming. This raises questions about the Company's and its principals' connections to South Dakota government, if any.

In my humble opinion, if the Federal authorities are seriously interested in satisfying the objectives outlined in the Sierra Club's flyer, they will need to fully understand the relationship between the large, institutional income beneficiaries, from deforestation of the Black Hills and elsewhere. It's a case of the proverbial "follow the money."

If you have any comments or questions, I can be reached through my website at my firm's website [www.SchulmanCo.com](http://www.SchulmanCo.com).

I hope you find this information helpful.

With appreciation,

Peter Schulman, CPA, CIRA, CDBV