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Comments: WE JUST EXPERIENCED A DANGEROUS FIRE IN THE BLACK HILLS

Thanks to the federal, state, county, and local fire fighters who worked to bring the First Thunder Fire 100 percent under control within a week. But we are now in the hottest summer on record, and fire agencies warn that summer is not over.

Instead, we could keep it like this.

Mature and old-growth trees and forests boost resilience to fire, protect our climate by absorbing and storing carbon, filter drinking water and shelter wildlife. Logging these trees deprives us of the benefits of our largest, oldest trees.

In the Black Hills, it deprives us of the tax revenues and recreational expenditures that drive our outdoor economy.

Cutting down old-growth trees to save them from potential threats is a false solution - they are worth more standing.

Thank you for your consideration!