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Comments: I fully support and encourage the withdrawal of mining companies from native lands to protect the Black Hills.

The United States Forest Service's ultimate responsibility is protection of our natural environment.

The degradation of water is being noted across the globe. Every drop of pure unpolluted water is precious to life in all forms and is fast becoming understood as the valuable asset it is. In the near future it will have more monetary value than anything obtained through mining which negatively impacts the aquifer. The ubiquity of PFAS and its near relatives in water across the globe underscores the need to begin mitigation of the global water crises. The United States Forest Service has the opportunity to turn the tide from continued degradation toward one of repair. I plead with those who are in seats of authority to join those of the First Nations, who have stewarded the Black Hills historically, to restore and protect our land and water.

It is imperative the United States Forest Service expedite the Withdrawal proposal to the Secretary of the Department of Interior. It is time for the United States Forest Service to publicly take a strong stand against the influence of corporations motivated by avarice rather than the welfare of the lands they are charged to manage and protect.

Sincerely, Jane Herbert