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First name: Amelie

Last name: Weselmann

Organization:

Title:

Comments: Firstly, a thank you to the Forest Service for inviting the public to comment.

I fully support this withdrawal and I believe in the necessity of protecting natural environments from mining. The preservation of wild land is of utmost importance, as today there is little left of it. Native plants and animals all over the US need active protection; the withdrawal of mining activity for 20 years must be part of such active efforts.

Further, it is important to acknowledge that the Black Hills are sacred lands of the Lakota Sioux. The Black Hills were illegally seized by the federal government once gold was discovered in those lands in the 1870s, despite a pre-existing treaty guaranteeing to respect Lakota ownership over He Sapa, now known as the Black Hills.

It would be most appropriate for the withdrawal to occur as soon as it is possible.