

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 10/25/2024 7:11:38 PM

First name: Ella

Last name: Francis

Organization:

Title:

Comments: To Whom it may concern,

I am writing to express my opposition to the proposed mineral withdrawal and to voice my support for the No Action Alternative provided in the Draft Environmental Assessment (EA). Given the multiple EAs underway in the Black Hills on Forest Service land, I am interested in understanding whether any of these EAs have previously not been awarded a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI). Additionally, could you clarify the outcome of the Jenny Gulch EA?

Furthermore, I respectfully request that the public comment period be extended. This extension would allow the National Forest Advisory Board (NFAB) to consider placing the mineral withdrawal proposal on its agenda for the November meeting, where they could provide valuable input. Allowing the NFAB to weigh in has been the established precedent for other mineral withdrawal proposals in the Black Hills, and it would be appropriate to follow this process here as well.

Lastly, could you provide information on how the presence of critical minerals in the proposed area might impact the Department of Defense (DoD) initiative to secure domestic critical mineral resources?

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this withdrawal process. I appreciate your consideration of the questions I have raised.