Data Submitted (UTC 11): 10/26/2024 12:44:26 AM
First name: Philip
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Organization:
Title:
Comments: USFS:
I support the withdrawal of the 20,000 acres at the headlands of the Rapid Creek Watershed to preserve the sacred He Sapa (Black Hills) of the indigenous Lakota People from toxic mining. It is high time to stop the historic capitalistic federal taking of their lands and call it "Taken enough"!

Hudson's Bay Company 19thC fur trader Peter Skeene Ogden said it best when he wrote:
p103/"The sentence passed…was…banishment forever…
Such a punishment may at first sight appear lenient, but its severity will become apparent when it is understood that death itself is perhaps less insupportable to an Indian, than banishment from his native soil. It is the pride and the pleasure of his nature to speak of it. Every conspicuous spot has its appropriate name, possibly connected by tradition with the prowess of his departed ancestors.
When a distant journey is undertaken, the last recommendation to those he leaves behind, is,
"Fail not, in case of my death, to go in quest of my bones, and bring them to my lands." I have witnessed several instances of Indians dying in this way, not less than twenty days' journey from their ancestral home; still, through a country nearly impassable, have the relatives observed religiously that last injunction, and sought their remains, exposed to every manner of privations and hardship. This being well known, ought we not to feel commiseration for /[p104]/ the unfortunates, whom we so often see deprived of their natural rights, particularly in the United States, where with the regularity of a law of nature, the aboriginal inhabitants are compelled to recede before the white population? As the settlements advance with rapid strides, a questionable enumeration, it is true, is nominally made to the original possessors of the soil, but what compensation can renumerate even these poor outcasts for the violation of their deepest sympathies? Driven backwards, step by step, league by league, each stage of their retreat is but a temporary respite from the onward march which dooms them to die at a distance from the bones of their forefathers. Wretched and desponding-moved hither and thither, by the right of might-subject to the will of a coarse and unfeeling agent, acting in the name of a government which is hopeless to resist-they become a prey to contagious diseases, which are ever severest on the poor and miserable. It is almost the only consolation remaining to the philanthropist under these circumstances, that, ere long, the race must become extinct."
~Ogden, Peter Skeene. TRAITS OF AMERICAN INDIAN LIFE AND CHARACTER BY A Fur Trader. c1853 ISBN 0-486-28436-0 (pbk.) Chapter XV: "THE DEATH OF OUR FAVORITE DONKEY", c1853, 1933, Dover Publications, NY: c1995.

I ask the U. S. Forest Service to expedite the withdrawal request proposal to the Secretary of the Department of the Interior.

Thank you.