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First name: Shelly

Last name: Rose

Organization:

Title:

Comments: I am opposed to the proposed mineral withdrawal and support the NO ACTION Alternative provided in the Draft EA. Overall, the Draft EA is inadequate, provides no clear scientific basis to define the purpose or need for the proposed Administrative Withdrawal. It also fails to provide any analysis of alternative protections, as described in the Forest Service Manual, Withdrawals. It has not followed the procedures set in place for these matters.

The comment period should be extended to allow time for the National Forest Advisory Board to include the proposed mineral withdrawal on their agenda at the November meeting and provide input as has been the case with all previous withdrawal proposals in the Black Hills. An extension is required to allow federal stakeholders to make substantial corrections to the EA and specific reports. Once corrections are complete, there needs to be another 30 day public comment for review of those corrections.

Critical minerals are within the proposed withdrawal area, including Antimony, a strategic and essential mineral for the DoD and US National Security. This proposed withdrawal is in direct conflict with the administration policy on Critical minerals.

Lastly, there are already existing mineral withdrawals overlaying all current recreational sites & water resources making this proposed withdrawal redundant for the expressed purpose.

I oppose this proposed withdrawal.