Data Submitted (UTC 11): 4/14/2025 6:42:20 PM

First name: Joseph Last name: Vandenberg

Organization:

Title:

Comments: I am commenting to oppose any and all exploratory mining, drilling, or development of the Rochford, Deerfield, and Mystic Ranger District area, including proposed project #67838.

This area is irreplaceable as one of the Black Hills most cherished fisheries and natural preserves. I am of the opinion that the entire are should be protected on the state and federal level. As a professional botanist and herbalist I can also validate the importance of this area for the botanical health of the Black Hills and its unique bioregion. This operation should not even be considered with any seriousness. We have developed the area enough, and what is left is now priceless.