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Organization:

Title:

Comments: I am writing to oppose the Rochford Mineral Exploratory Drilling Project. This graphite project is immediately adjacent to Pe' Sla, a vital sacred site to Lakota people who return ceremonially multiple times throughout the year. 16 of the 18 drill pads are within 2 miles of Pe' Sla. Drilling noise, traffic, and lights from drilling would disrupt spiritual ceremonies, wildlife, and area residents. Some of those drill pads are right by creeks within the upper Rapid Creek watershed and therefore threaten the health of the watershed and all life that depends on it. I am an indigenous person who has witnessed the destruction of watersheds throughout the United States. I worked in watershed conservation for decades of my life and saw first hand how mining can devastate watersheds. I've seen the impact of these mining operations in Colorado and California. I have seen the generations of native (and non-native) populations suffer from these ill effects. I care about the watersheds in the Black Hills as I care about all watersheds because, truly, water is life. The sacred sites of Indigenous Americans must be respected. The Forest Service must do an EIS for this project.