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Comments: I strongly oppose the Rochford Mineral Exploratory Drilling Project #67838. This project will devastate ground that is sacred to indigenous Americans, all in a quest for graphite. The project is immediately adjacent to - and some proposed drill pads might encroach on - Pe' Sla.

Research shows the project would involve 18 drill pads. Exploration could contaminate water in the upper Rapid Creek watershed, with some proposed drill pads very close to streams. And there is also the potential for contamination or cross-contamination of underground water sources. Pe' Sla is an intact ecosystem and an incredibly beautiful place--don't threaten it.

This land is also sacred to multiple tribes. These lands must be preserved, obligations to protect sacred lands must be honored, and traditional ceremonial practices must not be disrupted.

In the immediate I'm requesting a 60-day extension of the scoping public comment period so everyone has an opportunity to comment. The Forest Service must also require an Environmental Impact Statement for this project.

Thank you in advance for your time and attention.