

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 5/14/2025 1:55:19 AM

First name: Susan

Last name: Estep

Organization:

Title:

Comments: Dear US Forest Service,

I am a descendent of Welsh, Scottish and European settler colonists and am strongly concerned about the continuing harms of mining on the ancestral lands of Indigenous Peoples and in relation to this proposed mine in the sacred Black Hills which is so incredibly deserving to be protected for future generations for all children.. I am especially concerned for protecting Mother Earth who is visibly distressed in many parts of this country and here is no exception... After all the harms that have been done up to this moment we must reconsider our actions.. biodiversity of all living, kinship with all living, is important to protect. Indigenous peoples, their beautiful cultures, historical rock arts, formations are priceless.. natural watersheds are necessary to protect and keep clear, and with the waterways for all surrounding areas, including Rapid City being potentially polluted by this proposed Rockford Experimental Mineral Drilling.. what happens to the land, happens to the people.. thank you for considering this letter of opposition and for considering, running by your strong hearted thoughts.. Thank you for your interest and efforts in protecting and preserving these national forest lands and sacred sites , 80 percent of the world's forest lands have been and are protected by Indigenous Peoples, just like the Lakota and other tribes living near this proposed mine have been tending , caring , and holding ceremonies with the sacred Black Hills for thousands of years.. this deserves sober recognition and careful consideration... with trust in their discernment..

with appreciation and respect, Susan Estep