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First name: Bruce

Last name: Thron-Weber

Organization:

Title:

Comments: Dear US Forest Service,

I am writing in reference to the Rochford Mineral Exploratory Drilling Project #67838.

I have several requests

1. Please add a 60-day extension of the "scoping" public comment period, so everyone has an opportunity to comment on the Rochford Mineral Exploratory Drilling Project.
2. I oppose the Rochford Mineral Exploratory Drilling Project. It is important to me that the area of this proposed project be reserved and protected as a sacred place in and near where the Lakota People practice sacred ceremonies that they have practiced there for many years. These ceremonies connect them with their spiritual power which enable them to live their lives effectively in integrity and deep satisfaction. These are people who were on this land before we Europeans came to this part of the world. I want the United States to honor them.
3. Please require an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for this project. This is a pristine ecosystem and a beautiful place. Once damaged or destroyed, it would be very difficult if not impossible to recreate a place like the Black Hills and its ecosystem. Exploration could contaminate water in the upper Rapid Creek watershed. And there are underground water sources that could be contaminated as well.

Just knowing that places like the Black Hills are there is nourishing to the soul and the opportunity to visit is much more powerful. Whatever money can be made from it is not worth the loss of such a spectacular place.

Please add a 60-day extension of the "scoping" public comment period, stop the Rochford Mineral Exploratory Drilling Project, and require an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for this project.

Thank you.

Submitted by Bruce Thron-Weber