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First name: Dulanie

Last name: La Barre

Organization: Walk Your Talk Productions

Title: Producer

Comments: U.S. Forest Service:

I see that your motto is "Caring for the land and serving people." Now is the time to live up to that. I implore you to follow "your better angels" and deny Pete Lien & Sons Rochford Mineral Exploratory Drilling Project #67838.

This has been a sacred site for Native Americans, the First People, for thousands of years. Would you permit drilling in the Vatican, Sistine Chapel, Notre Dame, Stonehenge, or other sacred sites? I gave up on Christianity when the men who rule it insisted on "dominion over all things" rather than understand that all of life is sacred and under God's protection.

I would think that you, who have dedicated your career to caring for the land and serving people would fight hard to protect this land from extractive, destructive, exploitation. Sadly, history says otherwise. The Forest Service is known for too often selling out to the highest bidder.

At the very least, please allow a 60-day extension of the "scoping" public comment period, so everyone affected has an opportunity to make their case.

Additionally, you must require an Environmental Impact Statement for this project which will impact the land, water, wildlife and people for decades, if not centuries, to come. In this case, the mining will impact watersheds and undoubtedly contaminate groundwater sources and the Rapid Creek watershed. Due diligence is essential.

I know the pressure from this President's administration is heavy and unrelenting. BUT YOUR JOB IS TO PROTECT THE LAND AND THE PEOPLE. Please do your job.