

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 5/14/2025 8:36:46 PM

First name: Greg

Last name: Wingard

Organization:

Title:

Comments: This project should not move forward, and drilling on this portion of Forest Service lands should not move forward. For thousands of years, these lands in the Black Hills have been sacred to the Native people Including the Lakota, who have lived here far longer than the Forest Service, or the United States have existed. The Forest Service should take note of and respect their position on this matter by denying this mining related application.

While I don't live in South Dakota, I have spent time hiking and camping there. The beauty of the forests of the Black Hills inspire a sense of wonder and peace in taking a break from work and the daily grind. It is important to keep in mind that the Forest Service holds these lands in trust for the people of the United States, and while there are some balances to be maintained, this is not an area that the Forest Service should allow to be opened to mining. Across the west, there are many mines on Forest Service lands that are polluting scarce ground and surface waters. Many of these mine sites have long ago had the profits stripped by the mine owners and have long been abandoned, but the pollution continues none the less. This project site is an area where those mistakes should not be repeated in the simplest way possible. Deny the application.