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Comments: Eco-Integrity Alliance opposes the "Pete Lien and Sons Rochford Mineral Exploratory Drilling Project" due to impacts to the land and possible contamination of watersheds.

It is not "multiple use" if one of the supposed values of public lands--extraction for graphite, in this case--impacts the others, including natural ecosystems, wildlife habitat, and recreation.

It's important to understand the larger context of this mining project. While the ecological value of this particular swath of public lands is crucial--as is the sacred site of Pe' Sla to the Lakota people--the "Pete Lien and Sons Rochford Mineral Exploratory Drilling Project" is simply one of countless examples of the degradation of public lands across the U.S.

If the U.S. is going to meet its responsibilities under the Global Biodiversity Framework of protecting 30% of world ecosystems by 2030 and 50% by 2050--as well as CO2 emissions targets under the Paris Agreement--all federal, state, county, and municipal public lands must be set aside as Biodiversity & Climate Reserves off limits to extraction.