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Comments: I am concerned about the proposed Rochford Mineral Exploratory Drilling Project on Lakota land. It is sacred ground for them and must be protected. How many times must they defend land that was and is theirs? The environmental impact is of grave concern. Once destroyed, it may never again be restored to its natural beauty, beauty that the Lakota have protected and preserved for thousands of years. Mining could contaminate water of streams that are close by. In addition, there is potential for contamination or cross-contamination of underground water sources.

These are traditional sacred ceremonial grounds for the Lakota. Culturally, they are also important to preserve. Lastly, the Forest Service should, at minimum, require an Environmental Impact Statement for this project, and a 60 day extension should be granted for public comment so that everyone has an opportunity to comment. Thank you.