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Comments: I am asking that the Forest Service to please prohibit mineral exploration in the Pe' Sla area of the Black Hills. Your motto "Caring for the Land and Serving People", in my opinion, requires that you respect the religious and cultural values of the Native Americans that hold to the sacredness of this area.

I have long followed the Lakota's relationship to the Black Hills and the legal issues involved in their claim of treaty rights. Indeed, the Supreme Courts decision regarding the theft of the Black Hills and the Fort Laramie treaty should forbid mineral exploration on this land.

Please see to it that the U.S. Government does not commit yet another ethical and legal injustice in what is a sad and terrible history of crimes against the Lakotas and the Black Hills.

If there is any justice, the Black Hills will some day be returned to the rightful owners.