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First name: Amelie

Last name: Weselmann

Organization:

Title:

Comments: To the Forest Service,

Thank you for this opportunity to comment.

I am writing to you today to express my opposition to the Rochford Mineral Exploratory Drilling Project #67838. Firstly, I must ask you to consider a 60-day extension of this public "scoping" period, so that more people may have the opportunity to comment.

I oppose this drilling project because it encroaches on the sacred site Pe' Sla, otherwise known as Reynold's Prairie in the Black Hills National Forest. This site is part of Lakota Creation stories; culturally speaking, it is unthinkable to consider such a space for exploratory mining. Further, the Black Hills are a pristine natural environment that is home to a complex ecosystem, which stands to be threatened by such a project. The Black Hills also offer the restoration of spirit for its visitors from all over the nation that only a natural environment can provide. The American natural landscapes are part of our national cultural heritage; the beauty of our country deserves protection from predatory searches for minerals.

The Forest Service, as steward of these lands, has a duty to require an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for this mining project.