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Organization:

Title:

Comments: Please refrain from destroying public lands for the sake of mining-an act that, as you are surely aware, only yields destruction. Prioritizing fortunes over precious ecosystems is a disgrace to America, and to the supposed mission of the Forest Service. At the top of this page, under the Forest Service insignia, you can read the phrase "Caring for the Land and Serving People." Drilling 18 holes, each 1,000 feet deep, to tear graphite from the earth is the antithesis of "caring for the land." I'm deeply ashamed that desecrating indigenous sites with exploratory drilling is my country's way of "serving" the people whose ancestors have cherished this land for centuries. The Forest Service's website states: "As set forth in LAW, the mission is to achieve quality land management under the sustainable multiple-use management concept to meet the diverse needs of people: It includes: advocating a conservation ethic in promoting the health, diversity, and beauty of forests and associated lands. Listening to people and responding to their diverse needs in making decisions." Please listen to the people, especially the native people and their children, who are crying out for this project to be brought down. Please honor your professed convictions and advocate for the conservation of the Black Hills National Forest. Drilling will not promote the health of the forest. I spent many years in conservation corps stewarding federal lands all across the country. It was the greatest privilege of my life thus far. I beg of you-please act as a steward. This administration has never put boots on the ground in a backcountry area. They have no concept of the delicate connections between plants, animals, waterways, soil, and humanity. Resources will eventually run dry and wealth won't save you. The earth is all we have and it's our responsibility to care for it. If the Forest Service wants to remain "nationally and internationally recognized as a leader in caring for the land and serving people," act like it. Follow your own guiding principles and take an ecological approach to managing this forest.