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First name: Carla

Last name: Marshall

Organization:

Title:

Comments: Hello,

I am strongly opposed to the Ponderosa Exploration Drilling Project #64551 in our Sacred HeSapa (Black Hills). Please deny any permits that put our water in danger of contamination or will lead to larger projects that will repeat history of abandon toxic wastewater.

FIRST, I encourage you to hold Respectful and Meaningful Tribal Consultation with the 16 Federal Recognized Tribes that are listed here (<https://www.fs.usda.gov/r02/blackhills/working-with-us/tribal-relations>). The Black Hills is Treaty Territory under the 1851/1868 Ft. Laramie Treaties - therefore, Government-to-Government Tribal Consultation must be a priority.

SECOND, I request that a full Environmental Impact Statement be completed by the FS, and third party (who isn't working for the mining company). We know that the Black Hills has unique and special ecosystems that are interconnected. We, along with many allies now, recognize that this natural world has life; the Water, the Earth, the four-legged, winged, aquatics and insect and the Plant nations. The Black Hills tell of our Lakota creation, our traditional teachings, it holds spaces for our spiritual ceremonies, and it provides our natural foods, medicines and wildlife. This land is our Church and where we put our prayer altars. We need to protect this land not tear it up and pollute it with noise, toxic chemicals, and degrade the land, anymore.

THIRD, I request that the public comment period be extended to 60 days, but preferable 90 days.

And lastly, Let's remember that Extractivism's long history has plagued our precious HeSapa ecosystems; from boom to bust, since General Custer found Gold in our precious HeSapa, under the General Mining Law of 1872 that allows for inadequate insurance or bonds to hold these mining companies accountable for toxic spills when they happen. It's time to CLEAN UP THE MINES FROM THE PAST! IT'S TIME TO SAY "ENOUGH IS ENOUGH! - NO MORE MINING IN THE BLACK HILLS"

I sincerely thank you for protecting the Black Hills and for your service as a civil servant.

Carla Marshall