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Comments: I believe this project is unnecessary and contrary to good management of the forest. The harvesting of the mature pine trees will greatly change the landscape from beautiful forest to ugly, rampaged, clear-cut wasteland. It will also result in many more slash piles that increase the risk of severe fires, and if burned will release carbon dioxide and unhealthy smoke into the atmosphere.

This project will put the interests of the saw-mills far ahead of other groups that enjoy the forest: hikers, tourists, off-road enthusiasts, wildlife, and locals like myself that hike and drive by this area on a weekly basis. The thinning of small trees should be done, but those are not wanted by the sawmills so the forest service is bending over backwards to give them large trees under the guise of "forest management". This is in direct violation of the Multiple-Use Sustained-Yield Act of 1960 (MUSYA), which dictates that the U.S. Forest Service manage national forests for five co-equal purposes: Outdoor recreation, Range (livestock grazing), Timber, Watershed protection, and wildlife and fish habitat.

Our legislative representatives have put undue pressure on the U.S. Forest Service to increase unsustainable timber yields to keep the sawmills in business. This is contrary to managing forest resources so that our beautiful Black Hills will still be standing for generations to come.