

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 6/18/2026 9:25:26 PM

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Comments: I appreciate the opportunity to comment on the Benchmark Vegetation Management Project. Thank you! Please note that I find the rationale of mitigating fire risk lacking. Especially, the clear cutting. Also, prescribed burns on this forest almost never get done. Lastly and thank you for your patience, the project will negatively impact species dependent on dense forest habitats. Dense forests in the Black Hills are now rare, and dense acres are now below what the Forest Plan requires to maintain viability of species across the forest. Logging is putting special species like Goshawks and Martens on the verge of being extirpated from the forest.

Thank you!

Shawn Walters

Rapid City