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First name: John

Last name: Wrede

Organization:

Title:

Comments: Gentlemen: I am a 75 year resident of the Black Hills. I was born here as were my parents before me. I am a retired natural resource professional, researcher, amateur range and water quality scientist with both federal and state credentials with academic achievement beyond a BS degree.

I am vehemently opposed to this project and find it not only unnecessary but non-scientific, irresponsible, political management of an area of the Black Hills, (like most areas) that doesn't need management as much as it needs time to heal and develop plant diversity and old age classes of timber. This entire business of even age stand management that this forest has practiced for decades is unacceptable and ecological poison. This forest and the public that owns it does not owe private industry and logging, grazing interests a living and this Forest should have the temerity and honesty to put ecological balance and sound, scientific management ahead of political arm twisting intended to keep an industry alive that has done more damage to public land than good. This project won't do a thing to relieve wildland fire potential nor will it do one thing to lessen outbreaks of Mt. Pine Beetle, Ips beetles or other forest insects that this forest evolved with. Yes, it will provide products for industry but that is the only thing it will do while postponing the inevitable. You aren't saving an industry. You're just guaranteeing it's demise at a later date. That isn't management gentlemen. That's just political foolishness.

I am opposed to every part of this plan and project because there is no legitimate, scientific, managerial justification for it. Why is it necessary to allow private industry to tear up the landscape, stack up slash and unmarketable timber to rot, increase ladder fuel volume, increase the acreage of noxious weeds, increase erosion and road/trail volumes that further diminish the lands potential to grow vegetation and trees to sustain future logging, grazing, wildlife and recreation. This project has no management value what so ever and caters to an industry that has done nothing but raped and done irreparable damage to this forest. Your own forest ecologists have advised, on numerous occasions, that projects like this are not sustainable. I agree with them, not Neiman Industries nor anyone else relying on political influence over science and forest ecology to manage public resources.