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First name: River

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Organization:

Title:

Comments: The Black Hills are a special place to me personally. I have lived in the Black Hills for 33 years and over that time I have watched in go from a fairly wild, and peacefully place to an area that is over run with ATV's and the damage they cause, land and water that is damaged by so many mining operations it is disgusting, an unsustainable timber harvesting program, and a general over extraction from this sacred forest. I believe like the Lakota people who this land rightfully belongs to, that the Black Hills are sacred and not for sale. This constant development and misuse of the Black Hills National Forest is devastating to me. It's doesn't even look like the same place I grew up in. The places that I used to be able to count on to find solitude and the quiet of nature are being destroyed one by one to the point where it's getting harder and harder to find that quiet, and to find the kind of untouched beauty that used to be common place here. I am very concerned about the seemingly unending amount of destructive projects like this one that continue to be considered, and I'm paying attention. If we don't protect this land there's going to be nothing left of it.

This project is no different. It will damage land, it will take away habitat for animals that are important to the ecosystem. It will stress the natural systems of the forest, and violates the duty of the Forest Service to ensure viability of certain species like the American goshawk by providing appropriate habitat.

Please stop allowing this precious sacred land to be eaten up by the greed of mining companies, and the unsustainable timber industry. Please stop allowing this land to be destroyed over and over again until it's gone, and there are no more quiet places to find peace in its forests. I am against this project for all the reasons I've stated, and because this land still belongs to the Lakota people. If their concerns aren't being heard and considered before any type of project that takes from their land then as far as I'm concerned the forest service is in the wrong. Stop selling stolen land to anyone and everyone. Protect the land, the water and trees for future generations instead of allowing greedy people to destroy it.