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Organization:

Title:

Comments: The Black Hills National Forest matters to me, and I oppose this action as proposed. I take my public stewardship of our public lands seriously--I want to be able to visit this beautiful and sacred area and know that the environment is safe and species like long-eared bats have a pristine habitat. I want to be able to weigh-in on a draft EIS statement prior to implementation. Hikers and campers, like me, should be able to enjoy areas like the Bear Lodge Mountains without having to worry about potentially contaminated soil and pit mines. The Forest Service is destroying the trust it enjoys with its most powerful allies--the public that owns our public lands-- by denying the opportunity for the public to comment on draft environmental impact statements before final decision. The proposal requires a project-specific forest plan amendment to exempt the mine from the Black Hills Forest Plan's scenic integrity standards. The agency should analyze whether the standards can be met rather than waived, and disclose what the waiver costs the viewshed for which this forest is managed. Thank you, Nancy Adamson