



United States  
Department of  
Agriculture

Forest  
Service

Black Hills  
National  
Forest

330 Mt Rushmore Road  
Custer SD 57730  
605-673-4853

Hell Canyon Ranger District  
1225 Washington Blvd  
Newcastle WY 82701  
307-746-2782

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**File Code:** 2790 / 1950

**Date:** January 26, 2009

Greetings,

The Hell Canyon Ranger District is initiating the environmental planning and analysis to withdraw approximately 3,968 acres of National Forest System land from the mining laws for 20 years to protect cultural resources, including rock art of great cultural, scientific, and public interest within Craven Canyon. Enclosed is a description of the actions proposed by the interdisciplinary planning team.

Please review the proposed action and send us any comments you feel are pertinent such as specific issues to be considered, items that may improve the project, or ideas for alternatives to this proposal. You may provide comments via letter, phone, e-mail or FAX. In order to be most useful to the planning team, your comments should be received within 30 days of the date of this letter.

Once comments are received, the planning team will continue the environmental analysis in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). This analysis will include a proposed action, no action, and alternatives to the proposed action that are developed using comments received during this public scoping period.

Based upon the effects of the alternatives, the Recommending Forest Service official will transmit a recommendation to the BLM. The Director of the BLM approves the decision on the proposed withdrawal and publishes notice of decision in the Federal Register. Therefore, the Forest Service recommendation is not appealable (36 CFR 215.12(h)). The Recommending Forest Service official for this assessment will be the R2, Rocky Mountain Regional Forester (FSM 2761.04).

Please send comments concerning this proposed mineral withdrawal within Craven Canyon by any of the methods listed below:

*Written comments to:*

Hell Canyon Ranger District  
330 Mt. Rushmore Rd.  
Custer, SD 57730  
Attn: Patricia Hudson

*Email:* electronic comments may be sent to [comments-rocky-mountain-black-hills-hell-canyon@fs.fed.us](mailto:comments-rocky-mountain-black-hills-hell-canyon@fs.fed.us). The project name "Craven Canyon" must be included in the subject line. Electronic comments must be readable in Word, rich text or .pdf format.



*FAX:* 650-673-5461 *Attn:* Patricia Hudson  
*Phone:* 605-673-4853 (ask for Patricia Hudson)

Please refer to the “Craven Canyon” project in all correspondence. We welcome your thoughts and ideas for managing this area of the Hell Canyon Ranger District.

Sincerely,

Jeff Tomac  
Acting District Ranger

Enclosure: Craven Canyon Scoping Document and Maps

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