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# United States Department of the Interior

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October 30, 2017

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ER 17/0425

BHRL Project  
Black Hills National Forest  
1019 N. 5th Street  
Custer, SD 57730

To Whom It May Concern:

The U.S. Department of the Interior has reviewed the Draft Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement for the Black Hills Resilient Landscapes (BHRL) Project and has the following comments.

## **Bureau of Reclamation Comments**

The Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation) is the Federal Agency with jurisdiction for the operation and maintenance of the Pactola and Deerfield projects. Both reservoirs provide supplemental municipal water under a contract with the City of Rapid City. As Reclamation's managing partner, the City of Rapid City operates and maintains the Pactola and Deerfield dams and associated features. The U.S. Forest Service and Reclamation operate under agreements outlining administration and responsibilities for the Pactola and Deerfield projects.

Please note that Pactola Dam is eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places. Proposed projects on Reclamation lands and facilities require environmental and cultural resources review, including review by Reclamation's Area Archaeologist under the National Historic Preservation Act.

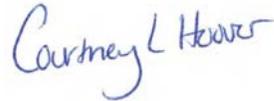
- 1** Comment #1: The DEIS for the BHRL Project categorizes the Pactola and Deerfield dam areas as under Management Area 8.2 (MA 8.2) or Developed Recreation Complexes and therefore excluded from the project area. The listed figures and maps in the DEIS for the BHRL Project are not at a resolution to determine if all of Pactola and Deerfield dams, reservoirs, and features are entirely included in MA 8.2. Reclamation recently received the GIS shapefiles for these areas and request more time to study the potential activities in relation to the Pactola and Deerfield Projects. If needed, Reclamation would request a meeting in the near future with the U.S. Forest Service to discuss any necessary modifications to the potential treatments in the Pactola and Deerfield project areas.

2 Comment #2: Reclamation requests that the U.S. Forest Service coordinate with Reclamation prior to considering any BHRL Project activities that may impede Reclamation's and our managing partner's operations and maintenance activities associated with the Pactola and Deerfield dams, reservoirs, associated features, and lands. If U.S. Forest Service activities result in damages to Pactola and Deerfield projects, then the U.S. Forest Service may be responsible to replace, rebuild, or repair the damages to original or better working condition. Reclamation must review and approve all replacement, reconstruction, or repair of facilities for which Reclamation has jurisdiction before the work begins.

### **U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service**

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service provided comments to the project when the Notice of Intent was issued. Their review of the document identified that most of the bureau's comments had been incorporated and they have no additional comments.

Sincerely,



Courtney Hoover  
Regional Environmental Officer