



**FALL RIVER COUNTY
COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
COURTHOUSE
906 NORTH RIVER ST
HOT SPRINGS, SOUTH DAKOTA 57747
PHONE: (605) 745-5130 FAX: (605) 745-6835**

April 26, 2022

Randy Deibert
Lawrence County Commissioner
90 Sherman St.
Deadwood, SD 57732

Dear Randy,

I think we need to concentrate on how we can be better informed and make better decisions as Commissioners for our constituents in our respective Counties. Since knowledge is power, the more information we have available through the Forest Service, the better our decisions can be.

At this time, I don't believe we have received all of the available information that would allow us to make an informed decision. In Fall River County, we have 46,482.43 acres of National Forest land, including grazing and timber. This is a huge amount of our total land area. Numerous ranchers are dependent upon their Forest Service grazing permits for the sustainability of their livelihood.

If we, as elected officials do not adequately represent these clients and other users of the Forest Service lands, hunters, rockhounds, hikers, campers, we are not fulfilling our obligations as elected officials. It is our responsibility to utilize the information given to us to keep our constituents informed.

To the best of my knowledge, we were not adequately asked for input in the decision-making process by the Forest Service. I think a meeting of area Commissioners from affected Counties would be advantageous for strategizing our ongoing efforts with our Forest Service programs.

Please feel free to contact our Auditor for additional correspondence.

Sincerely,

Joe Falkenburg
Joe Falkenburg, Chair
Fall River County Commission

CC: Jeff Tomac
USDA Forest Service
Black Hills National Forest
1019 N 5th St.
Custer, SD 57730