

**A RESOLUTION SUPPORTING THE
“BLACK HILLS RESILIENT FOREST STRATEGY”**

WHEREAS, the Black Hills forest ecosystem crosses all land ownerships, thus the responsibility of ensuring a resilient and healthy forest is shared among numerous owners and managers; and

WHEREAS the mountain pine beetle has caused extensive damage throughout the Black Hills over the past 20 years, affecting about 450,000 acres across all landownerships and threatening the socio-economic and ecological values therein; and

WHEREAS wildfires have affected several hundred thousand acres across the Black Hills damaging watersheds, utility infrastructure, timber, habitat and forage, and property; further an accumulation of forest fuels threatens property and resources; and

WHEREAS the *Black Hills Conservation Leaders* Group was formed to synchronize land management interest and action of the various private, local, state, and federal efforts through a shared vision and strategy; and

WHEREAS, the “*Black Hills Resilient Forest Strategy*” published in December, 2017 was prepared to address the need for a comprehensive, collaborative approach to address forest fuels and threatened communities, invasive plants and an over-grown forest in transition and to move towards a healthier, resilient forest.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the City of Rapid City endorses the broad principles, goals and objectives of the *Black Hills Resilient Forest Strategy* and authorize inclusion in the participant list contained therein.

APPROVED AND ADOPTED this ____ day of _____ 2018 by the City of Rapid City

DATED this ____ day of _____, 2018

CITY OF RAPID CITY

Mayor

Attest

Finance Officer (seal)