



*South Dakota Black Hills*, photograph by Jerry and Pat Donaho  
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“*He Sapa* [the Black Hills] holds memories and stories of Lakota history from the time of creation...and at the center of *He Sapa* is its foundation —*Inyan*, the Rock. Lakotas believe that countless generations later, our ancestors left the underworld and emerged onto this earth through a hole, or connecting cave, in *Inyan*.

...*He Sapa* is a precious resource that Lakotas have held in trust for the coming generations. *He Sapa* to Lakotas is a *wizipan*, a repository from which we can draw physical and spiritual sustenance. It is a place of prayer and ceremony. We cannot look upon it without thinking about the power that created it. We are part of it, as it is part of us.”

Craig Howe, Lydia Whirlwind Soldier, and Lanniko L. Lee, eds., *He Sapa Woihanble: Black Hills Dreams* (St. Paul: Living Justice Press, 2011) 4