Phil,

My guess is that the function write_tiff is internally converting your
NDVI to type byte before writing it to a file. You can either scale
your data to properly fit into bytes using something like:

ndvi_byte = bytscl(ndvi_image, min = -1, max = 1).

Or you can try using the /float keyword to write_tiff to force it to
write out your data as floats.

-Pierre