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**To:** [FS-comments-rocky-mountain-black-hills-hell-canyon](#)  
**Subject:** [External Email]Newark Exploration Project  
**Date:** Monday, February 13, 2023 8:59:42 PM

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It is totally unbelievable that the USDA Forest Service would even consider approval of this project. This would devastate our natural environment, chase away all of the wildlife and decrease our property values. The drilling and mining of gold would require excessive amount of ground water and possibly contaminate and deplete our aquifer.

This is not even considering the effect on tourism in our community. The exploration for gold is only for the increased wealth of the company mining with a total disregard for the residents of Custer County and South Dakota. At what cost to our community would this be? Could we even have a safe water source for the city of Custer and all of the nearby residential properties?

This would certainly devalue our properties at a time when we are paying skyrocketing property taxes. To even consider approval of this project is unthinkable without a complete environmental impact study at the very least. The economic impact of this on Custer city and county would be detrimental. We would not be recovering from this for generations.

Linda Fellows  
[REDACTED]