

Janet Rose-Perrenoud
Mark Perrenoud

February 22, 2023

Mr. Rob Hoelscher, District Ranger
Hell Canyon Ranger District
US Forest Service
1019 Fifth Street
Custer, SD 57730
comments-rocky-mountain-black-hills-hell-canyon@usda.gov
Also sent via USPS

Re: Opposition to F3 Gold exploration and mining in Custer County – F3 Newark 2020
Exploration Project

Dear Mr. Hoelscher:

We are writing to express our opposition to exploration of gold or other extractable minerals and mining in the Black Hills of South Dakota. Currently that includes the site on the northwest border of Custer by the F3 Gold exploration company. Our reasons for opposing this and any similar exploration and mining include the following.


- The Mining Law of 1872 and amendments is antiquated and unfairly allows gold or other mineral exploration to be very intrusive to landowners/tax payers that oppose this exploration. This law further violates the rights of and treaties with Native Americans who hold the Black Hills sacred.
- There has not been an objective full environmental impact study/statement completed specific to this area. It is a mistake to do a categorical exclusion of this exploration area based on the Jenny Gulch statement. The Jenny Gulch site is not adjacent to as large a population center as the Custer exploration site is one difference.
- This project uses huge amounts of water and is especially threatening to precious and irreparable underground water resources.
- These water resources are needed for people, livestock and wildlife. At this time of drought water should not be diverted to drilling and mining.
- The above ground ponds of recycled water are a threat to break or flood and then pollute the ground waters and eventually the underground aquifers.
- The resulting damage to the environment is a threat to agriculture and tourism which economically are much more important industries in South Dakota than mining.

- Exploration and mining companies have a history of not reclaiming the land they damage and polluted. They take their profits and leave their damage and pollution in our back yard, not theirs.
- Exploration and mining equipment create noise pollution in what is a residential area. Many of the residents chose their home location for solitude and quiet.
- This impacts of the exploration are a threat to both historical sites of importance and Jewel Cave National Monument.

We believe that this land and especially the water damage cannot be mitigated in a sufficient manner.

Again, we oppose any further mineral exploration and mining in the Black Hills.

Respectfully,


Janet Rose-Perrénoud


Mark Perrénoud