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Title:

Comments: Urgent actions needs to be taken in order to save Black Hills from ecological disaster!!!

I am shocked, just like all residence of our Upper French Creek Road development of Custer, to learn, that there are way too many active mining claims across the most precious part of South Dakota - Black Hills.

As of December 2022 - there are 10,467 Lode claims, and 572 Placer claims. We understand, that it is time of lithium rush, and need for many other minerals for modern technologies.

Did you see the most recent Environment Impact studies?

According to the scientist from SD School of Mines and Technology, his speech given during February 16th Custer residents meeting, impact from lithium mining will cause irreversible negative toxic impact on waters(which are scarce here as you know) and all the environment.

For many people, from early Native Americans to today's visitors, residents, the Black Hills has been a special place come for physical and spiritual renewal as well as to live, to work, to raise families, to retire.

About 230000 people are living in this jewel of our state, while millions of vacationers come here every year. Black Hills needs to be treasured, not to be destroyed, so exploration and mining companies make super profits.

Main question - what you have been doing to stop lithium and other minerals mining across the Black Hills, to prevent ecological disaster?

Respectfully

Irina Simpson

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