

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 2/13/2023 7:00:00 AM

First name: Laura

Last name: Piening

Organization:

Title:

Comments: Dear Ms. Schuler,

I ask you to reconsider. The Newark Project isn't appropriate for a Categorical Exclusion, and the Forest Service needs to do an Environmental Assessment. This is a large gold exploration project just west of [mdash] and upstream from [mdash] Custer along French Creek.

At some point, we must stop destroying land and water resources for the sake of capital expansion. Gold mining can be extremely toxic to the environment and the drilling itself disrupts the environment. There may be cultural resources in the area that need to be protected. It's upstream from Custer that relies on clean water for tourism (French Creek, which the project would impact, runs right through Custer).

Please reconsider and help us move forward in life-affirming, productive ways.

Thank you.

Laura Piening

\*redacted\*