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First name: Scott

Last name: Suddendorf

Organization:

Title:

Comments: Rob Hoelscher, District Ranger

Hell Canyon Ranger District

1019 N 5th Street

Custer, SD. 57730

Dear Mr. Hoelscher,

Thank you for taking time from your busy schedule to review some of my concerns and objections to the F3 Newark Exploration Drilling Project identified your informational letter distributed in Feb, 2023. I am a resident of Custer County very close to areas inside the proposed project.

I don't know what obligation the Forest Service has to F3 Gold that would allow project to ensue recognizing the potential for disastrous environmental effects. True stewards of the BHNF would study potential effects this project will have on this incredible resource. Studies on impact should go beyond those minimal risks described in the categorical exclusion dodge your letter included.

The community and its residents do their best to preserve the forest. Additionally, Forest Service regulations would suggest the area is very fragile. Off road travel is strictly prohibited. Vehicles wider than 62 inches are prohibited in much of the area again I imagine this is because of the fragile nature of the area. The foray of heavy equipment and drilling rigs will certainly have more impact on the land than an ATV that is one inch wider than allowed. Some study and thought must be done to analyze effects of this invasive probe. I understand this is only a prospecting phase but it will undoubtedly result in full scale mining should results of the prospecting be favorable.

In short I am objecting to the proposed project. Not enough is known about the consequences to water, wildlife and community produced by the prospecting and potential subsequent mining.

Thank you very much,

Scott Suddendorf

redacted