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First name: Zach Last name: Stone Organization:

Title:

Comments: I would like to express concern and disapproval of any mining activity on any public lands in the Black Hills. The area is already becoming overrun with traffic from recreation, logging, cattle grazing and excessive UTV usage. I was nearly struck recently by a mining truck on Maitland Rd. The extra traffic and road building will create more user conflicts. If we allow public lands to continue to be exploited at this rate we will have nothing left worth protecting. The scars of previous gold rushes are nowhere near healed in the Black Hills. I hope a lesson was learned and disaster can hopefully be averted instead of mitigated after the fact. I would propose at minimum an EIS, full NEPA study be conducted. Water is already a source of contention in the area and further exploitation will perpetuate water quality issues. I've added visual reminders of what havoc mining can wreak and the natural beauty of elk running through the forest. Thanks.