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Organization:

Title:

Comments: The areas that have been chosen (especially Limestone and Timber Gulch) are critically important to the elk herd that lives in SD Game Fish & Parks Elk hunting unit H1A. This is an exceptionally coveted tag, that thousands of SD residents spend decades trying to get drawn for, which has essentially become a once or twice in a lifetime hunting opportunity. Elk are shy creatures that prefer not to have a lot of human interaction. These areas correspond with a number of natural and man-made places where the elk can go to drink. So, now we are talking about more human interaction in the (rather few) places where the elk can always depend on a drink. The result of this could very well be that the elk move out of this unit completely. Have you discussed this with SD Game Fish & Parks? I think their biologists would probably have a lot of strong opinions about this. In fact, has it been discussed with anyone? I just found out about it today. Last year, my brother-in-law drew the archery tag, and I am enclosing a few of the scouting pictures that we got during the summer just to give you some idea of what I am talking about. Each of these camera sites is within a half mile of one of the stars on the map. In the end, he was not successful in filling his tag, but we had a wonderful time recreating in the area that would be affected, and I don't think that opportunity should be taken away from the future hunters, wildlife watchers, hikers, ranchers, off-road vehicle operators, tourists, mountain bikers, and everyone else that enjoys this area, including the future generations of people who will enjoy our little piece of heaven. Thanks for considering my opinion, and please reject any further attempts to ruin the area.