

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 2/20/2023 7:00:00 AM

First name: Averianna

Last name: Christiansen

Organization:

Title:

Comments: The Newark Project is not appropriate for a categorical exclusion. The Forest Service needs to do environmental assessments. This is not a small project and could damage the black hills eco system and the animals and people that call the Black Hills home. There are cultural resources that need to be protected, such as the state park wildlife, our water reserves, and historical sites throughout the hills. This project is upstream from the city of Custer which relies on the clean water from French Creek. French creek would be directly impacted by this project. I would also like to point out that most of the surrounding cities find their main source of economy comes from tourism and with all due respect who wants to visit a mining field? Please consider that these things are highly important to the surrounding communities. Be a part of the solution, not the problem. Thank you for your time and thoughtful consideration, Averianna