Data Submitted (UTC 11): 3/2/2023 7:00:00 AM
First name: Charles
Last name: Thorp
Organization:
Title:
Comments: Sir,
I am a homeowner in Custer. My home is across the street from the National Forest land where this project is to be located. These lands are there to be enjoyed by all. This project will bring traffic, air pollution, noise, destruction of land, erosion, destruction of habitat, night lights, and loss of wildlife to the area. Drilling can pollute underground water tables affecting wells and drinking water. All of this will lead to decreased property values and have a negative impact on tourism to our area affecting our local economy.I hike through the proposed project area frequently. I will personally see a loss of trees, plants, wildlife and destruction to the area. I worry about drainage and drinking water pollution due to the close proximity of my home. I am genuinely concerned about gold drilling and gold mining in this beautiful area. I have read that gold mining is considered one of the most destructive industries in the world. It has been known to displace communities, contaminate drinking water, hurt workers, and destroy pristine environments. It pollutes water and land with mercury and cyanide, endangering the health of people, animals, and ecosystems. The manufacture of an average gold wedding ring generates more than 20 tons of waste. This environmental damage to our area is unacceptable.This project does not meet the criteria for a categorical exclusion. An Environmental Assessment is necessary to better understand what impact there will be on our area. This has been done for other recent gold exploration projects in the Black Hills and should be done here as well. This is an exploratory project and so has future ramifications that should also be addressed now. All potential future drilling should be described and assessed at this time before allowing this project to begin.Thank you for your time and consideration in this important matter.Respectfully, Charles Thorp