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First name: Michelle

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Organization:

Title:

Comments: I understand that F3 Gold is within their legal rights to stake claims.

I also understand that the Forest Service is within their legal rights to put restrictions in place in order to keep in line with its mission statement.

'To sustain the health, diversity, and productivity of the Nation's forests and grasslands to meet the needs of present and future generations. For more than 100 years, the Forest Service has brought people and communities together to answer the call of conservation.'

My comments could go on and on about how absurd it is to consider mining activity in our neighborhood but I will try to keep comments to those legal understandings.

I live in \*redacted\*, west of Custer, Sd, and on the edge of Forest Service land. We drive Upper French Creek Road 286 (primary access for F3) 3 miles to Diamond Road to get to our home. Crow Creek (close to several pads and a lay down area for F3) runs through our property. Forest Service road 781 (primary access for F3) is in view from our home. We have so many stakes in the Forest Service area around our neighborhood that I have lost count. I had been in touch with F3 Gold numerous times a few years ago concerning those stakes. One stake placed on the Forest Service side of our fence called a ghost stake actually extends onto our land. Other neighbors have these also.

There is a natural rhythm in nature along with a rhythm in our neighborhood that we all enjoy. We have been very fortunate to live here and fear it will all be destroyed with 24 hour a day noise pollution and light pollution. Crow Creek will also be destroyed with drilling and mining.

If this project happens:

1. I suggest you keep noise and light pollution to a bare minimum and not allow anything 24 hours a day. No lights, no noise, no work during nighttime hours.

2. I suggest that the 100 foot buffer to water sources be extended far, far beyond that. We live on Crow Creek below the area of drilling pads and question how it is possible to not be affected by water pollution. Crow Creek flows into French Creek and through town. There are numerous springs in this area and an in-depth environmental study needs to be required.

3. I suggest strict requirements are in place to ensure no major dust and destruction on Forest Service roads and Upper French Creek Road which is a heavily used road for access to town.

We do our best to be good neighbors in our neighborhood which includes living next to the Forest Service. I hope for the same respect from the Forest Service when it comes to determining guidelines that mining operations need to adhere to. Most likely it would not be feasible for the operation to take place in this area at all given these kind of restrictions but there is a lot of Forest Service land that would be away from any neighborhood that they could explore. In the future I think there should be a buffer zone around any established neighborhood which would ensure the Forest Service would be in accordance with their mission statement.

FYI in case you are interested :)

I have an ongoing list of critters that we have shared our land with since 2015, many showing up around May when this nightmare of a project is supposed to start; deer, elk, mountain lions, coyotes, red fox, badgers, pine martins, yellow bellied marmots, minks, rabbits, turtles, frogs, snakes, squirrels, chipmunks, bald eagles, golden eagles, red tail hawks, sharp shinned hawks, geese, blue heron, great horned owls, screech owls, vultures, red wing blackbirds, buffleheads, Northern shovelers, Pie billed Grebes, lesser scalp, shovelers, turkeys, mallards, green wing teal, blue wing teal, crows, yellow headed blackbirds, brown headed cowbirds, grackles, Northern flickers, woodpeckers, grey jays, bluebirds, tree swallows, wrens, robins, chickadees, bats, nuthatches, golden finches, hummingbirds, pine grosbeaks, morning doves, bumble bees, honey bees, yellow jackets, lady bugs, praying mantis, beetles, monarch butterflies[hellip][hellip].

Michelle Hutt

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