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Organization: Operation Black Hills Cabin

Title: Co-Founders

Comments: Mr. Rob Holscher:

I am writing concerning the proposed drilling for gold by Custer SD. This is wrong on so many levels! Let me just touch on the water consumption issue.

Big Rock Exploration LLC states: The quantity of water used is estimated to average in the range of 5,000 - 10,000 gallons per day per drill rig.

They are talking using 4 drilling rigs.

This equals 40,000 gallons of water per day.

For one year.

This equals 14,600,000 gallons of water.

An Olympic size swimming pool holds 660,000 gallons.

This would be more than 22 Olympic sized swimming pools.

Unless this company imports water from Mars, this could potentially drain all the wells in half of Custer County.

It is unbelievable that the US Forest Service is even considering this project!

Regards,

Jeffery & Patricia Baird

Custer County residents

redacted