

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 3/10/2023 7:00:00 AM

First name: Jeanne

Last name: Foss

Organization:

Title:

Comments: Rob Hoelscher

District Ranger

1019 North 5th Street

Custer, SD 57730

Dear Mr. Hoelscher,

My name is Jeanne Foss. Together with my daughter and son-in-law, I own property in the Custer area and am in the process of establishing a residence on the land. Both my daughter and I were born and raised in Custer and are very aware of the importance of tourism to the Black Hills, as well as being cognizant of the fragile environment, wildlife, and water accessibility (or lack thereof) of the southern hills area.

I just recently became aware of the Newark Exploration Drilling Project proposed near Custer, SD. It is my understanding this proposed drilling was not vetted through an EIS process. I am very concerned that the USFS would allow such a project, especially without a proper EIS regarding the possible future degradation of one of the main drinking water sources of the Custer area. How the USFS would even consider this sample drilling and/or future projects without first examining the environmental impacts is shocking. I encourage you to take a step back and reconsider the sample drilling and/or future mining projects in this area until a proper and thorough EIS has been completed.

A concerned citizen,

Jeanne Foss

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