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Organization:

Title:

Comments: Forest Service

Rob Hoelscher, District Ranger

1019 N.5th St

Custer, SD 57730

Dear Sir;

I am a resident of Hot Springs and visit Custer's parks for recreation. I am concerned about the proposed Newark project and the impact it will have upon the environment. A cleared area driven over and drilled will affect the wildlife by displacing them. It will also affect French Creek and Wabash Spring. These waters are recreational, used to water livestock and are close to wells used by residents for drinking water. It is my understanding that cyanide is used in the extraction of gold. That has the potential to poison Livestock, wildlife, and people. It is important to do an environmental assessment to ascertain how this project will affect French Creek Drainage, the town of Custer, Custer State Park and the tourism and outdoor recreation economy. I run a ABNB and am concerned about a decline in tourism because of gold mining. Other recent gold exploration projects in the Black Hills have had an environmental assessment. We need to know the impact, and the potential for future drilling before this project is considered.

Thank you.

Ebun Adelona RN, MS, PhD