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First name: Michael
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Organization:
Title:
Comments: Rob Hoelscher, District Ranger1019 N. 5th StCuster, SD 57730Dear Ranger Hoelscher:Re: Newark ProjectResearch by itself is not productive. It must lead to using the results of the research for some purpose. Support for exploration in the area for possible mining, implies the possibility of supporting the mining itself. Therefore, while considering the possibility of permitting exploratory drilling, the ramifications of the economic, social, environmental and aesthetic effects on the area if mining were to be permitted, must be considered as well. I think it is important to remember the words of Gifford Pinchot, 1905 " ... where conflicting interests must be reconciled, the question will always be decided from the standpoint of the greatest good of the greatest number in the long run."Custer is a tourist town. Much of the economic support of the City of Custer as well as Custer County comes from individuals who are vacationing in the area. As a tourist area the aesthetics, clean air and quiet play into the economic livelihood of the area. Drilling test holes, creating roads to the test sites and the activity of testing for potential mining operations create potential economic hazards to the community. Therefore, it is essential that the Newark Exploratory Project be managed in a way so that the community is not harmed by the exploration. If the exploration provides the likelihood of gold being found in amounts that support mining, this entire issue of the economic livelihood of the localcommunity will need to be revisited in addition to the environmental impact studies that will be required for the mining area the effects of mining on the populace of the area.The Newark Exploratory Project is said to require water from a municipality. While there is no clear indication in the proposal about what municipality will be providing the water. Custer City has a well providing water to the residents in the area, which is a semi-arid area. Unless the water source for Custer is well studied and show that there is ample water to permit exploratory drilling, in addition to providing water required by the current residents, a distant source of water needs to be identified and secured before the exploration is approved. In addition, if exploratory drilling is permitted with the possibility that mining might result from the exploration, F3 Gold should be required to providedocumentation concerning the source of ample water to proceed with mining.Thank you for considering my comments,Michael FoosProfessor of Biology, emeritus