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First name: Kevin

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Organization:

Title:

Comments: Hello. I am a life long resident of the Black Hills. Born and raised in Deadwood and now living in Rapid City. I oppose the F3 Gold LLC project and do not believe it is in the interest of the majority of citizens in the Black Hills are to let this project move forward.

There is just too great of a risk to watershed below this proposed testing.

The Pactola reservoir is directly downstream of proposed drilling. It IS in the line of fire, so to speak, should things turn bad. It is very possible that water pollution in this area could affect the lake and streams below the watershed and ultimately threaten the water supply for Rapid City and it's citizens. This is not to be taken lightly and the promise of gold shiny things are just not worth the risk. I do understand that jobs are playing a factor. I grew up in Deadwood and watched as Wharf tore down the mountains surrounding Terry Peak. Many good jobs were the result and they are still looking to expand many times after the original lines were drawn. I do fear the same would happen here after gold is discovered from the drilling, and I am confident it will be. I worked 13 years underground at the Homestake mine myself. I was glad my friends had jobs at Wharf, but I hated seeing the hills destroyed. I fear that for the area above Pactola as well, as I love to hike and off road in that area. I also love to fish and kayak in Pactola reservoir. So that brings us back to the drilling part and F3 Gold LLC's request to explore for gold in this area. I do feel that just the drilling alone does hold the prospect to affect the wildlife and [I do feel that just the drilling alone does hold the prospect to affect the] livelihood of those who use this area frequently. the drilling alone presents a viable threat to the area. Even the Rapid City board of council members opposes the drilling for fear of water contamination to the city. That contamination would come from the upstream operations I fear. Water does run downhill. So will the contaminates from the drilling. And that is on the surface. Who really knows how the chemicals and natural formations could contaminate things from deep down inside the drill holes themselves? the truth may be that no one does. Therefore, I strictly present my opposition to letting this project continue. Public opposition should mean something, and I believe strongly that the Forest Service should listen to the people opposing this project. The short term hazards are there and the long term threat of true mining in this area are there as well. Mining for gold and other minerals above this water shed that is a crucial water supply both recreational and life giving) to tens of thousands of people is just a bad idea. I oppose the F3 Gold LLC project. Please stop this from proceeding.

Thank you.

Kevin Ryan

Registered voter and concerned citizen.

Rapid City, SD