Data Submitted (UTC 11): 2/13/2023 9:41:38 PM
First name: Brad
Last name: McKinney
Organization:
Title:
Comments: I am opposed to this Exploratory Project. I am opposed primarily because it might further lead to a full-blown surface/open-pit mining operation, under the 1872 Mining Law, here in the Black Hills.
It is common knowledge that the 1872 Mining Law governing such operations is antiquated and requires now leadership in Congress to update such permitted actions on public lands. Environmental protections under this 150-year-old law are woefully lacking. Tax payers are now on the hook for cleaning up a Super Fund site in the Black Hills already.
And, as I understand it, the current Law does not assess royalties from such mining investments that would greatly benefit the American taxpayer.
In 1872, recreational use of our public lands was not a major (or even minor) consideration, when evaluating the best management practices of our public lands. Now, such public recreational use here in the Black Hills is a major, if not leading, use of said lands. Mining activities are not compatible with recreational use of public lands, at least here in the Black Hills.
The 1872 Mining Law must be replaced before any further mining activities are permitted here in the Black Hills.
Thank you for allowing me to participate in the decision making process.
Sincerely,
Bradley W McKinney