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Comments: Comments for Newark Exploration Drilling Project

As lifelong South Dakota residents we have always believed the Black Hills is a special place that should remain a beautiful unspoiled place for future generations to enjoy. Destroying it forever with gold mining does not preserve this resource.

The proposed drilling and mining along French Creek above the city of Custer will likely damage the water resource depended upon all the live here and the millions of tourist that visit every year.

Based on these simple facts above a categorical exclusion is not appropriate for this project. An "Environmental Impact Statement (EIS)," should be done before this area is forever damaged. There will be impacts on French Creek drainage, Custer, Custer State Park, and our tourism and outdoor recreation economy.

The Forest Service needs to respect Lakota treaty rights and to do a complete, and meaningful, tribal consultation.

This project would only be the beginning - the company will want to keep exploring after this proposed project is over. All potential future drilling should be described and assessed now, before this project is considered.