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Comments: Newark Exploratory Drilling Project 3/9/23:

I believe there is much concern about the increase in mining exploration among We the People owners of the Black Hills National Forest. Considering the mess at Gilt Edge, a full Environmental Analysis should be required for the Newark Exploratory Drilling Project and others. I realize that the outdated 1872 Mining Act probably is involved and that is the purview of the South Dakota congressional delegation. However since you are taking comments I suspect that you have a strong input channel to the delegation. Also you have the ability to advocate for more Mineral Withdrawals and that is needed.

Generally, the Black Hills National Forest needs a recognition of natural beauty as an objective in itself.

Completely natural areas are a tremendous value and part of multi-use. Natural areas and wildlife habitat are extremely important in a small ecosystem like the Black Hills National Forest. I believe there is a need for wilderness areas in the northern Hills which is unprotected relative to the southern Hills.