Data Submitted (UTC 11): 4/2/2023 9:55:38 PM First name: Kristi Last name: Friedel Organization:

Title:

Comments: I own a house in Custer and plan on retrieving there in a few years. Currently I live in Spearfish which I have resided since 1976. I have personally witnessed the destruction of the areas in the Black Hills that have been destroyed by gold mines that promised to reclaim the land but have not.

I believe that gold mining is one of the most destructive industries by contaminate drinking water, and destroying pristine environments. It water and land with mercury and cyanide, endangering the health of people and ecosystems. Also, the Black Hills relies heavily on the tourist industry because many areas people like to hike, bike horseback ride, etc.. are unspoiled here. Please do not let the gold exploration in Custer to continue for the gain of a limited number of greedy people.

Kristi Friedel

Spearfish