

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 5/11/2023 10:30:18 AM

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Comments: As an opposition statement to the proposed Golden Crest Exploration Drilling Project, it is important to consider the potential negative impacts of this project.

Firstly, the drilling sites for gold mineralization could lead to significant destruction of wildlife habitats and biodiversity.

Secondly, heavy equipment and increased traffic could disrupt the peace and quiet of the community, damage roads and other infrastructure, and create safety hazards.

Thirdly, the project's proposed staging area for the storage of equipment and supplies could pose significant risks to the surrounding environment, including potential pollution of soil and water sources.

It is also important to consider the potential impacts of the Golden Crest Exploration Drilling Project on recreational activities and water contamination. The proposed drilling activities could significantly impact the recreational activities enjoyed by visitors to the Black Hills National Forest, such as hiking, fishing, biking, and camping. Nobody wants to hear the noise of heavy equipment and smell diesel fuel while out in nature.

Additionally, the drilling activities could lead to contamination of nearby water sources, posing a risk to both human and animal health. This has happened in other communities from similar projects.

In terms of economic health of the Spearfish and surrounding areas this project has the potential to negatively impact tourism dollars as visitors may be deterred by the disruption caused by the drilling activities and the associated impacts on the environment.

For all the reasons listed above this project MUST NOT be approved. It can and will negatively impact the environment and local economy. If this project does move forward we lose one of our most valuable assets in South Dakota and open the door for similar projects in the area.

It seems to me that preserving the health of the Black Hills National Forest for future generations to enjoy far outweighs giving a money hungry corporation permission to dig a bunch of "rocks" out of the dirt to appease shareholders.