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Comments: I grew up in South Dakota and still visit often. The Black Hills are one of the real treasures of the state, and should be preserved for their beauty and for tourism. I know many people in Connecticut who visit the Black Hills as well.

Why would you want to go back to allowing monetization of that fragile natural resource by allowing industrial mining again? Once you allow that level of destruction, you're going to ultimately lose out horribly. The Spearfish Canyon is an absolute jewel in the hills, and someone thinks that allowing mining there will improve anything? Anyone who does so is valuing short-term gains ahead of long term metrics and sustainability.

Many years back, my family would visit the Black Hills for its beauty and recreation. We never went there to visit the blight that was the Homestake Goldmine. What an ugly disaster that was/is. That monstrosity is still the source of pollution all these years later - <https://www.sdsmt.edu/Research/Research@Mines/SD-Mines-Researchers-Trace-Pollution-from-Historic-Northern-Hills-Mine-Tailings-Hundreds-of-Miles-Downstream/>

Some people need to quit acting like it's 1850 again. We have knowledge and sense beyond the urge to rape and pillage our natural resources again. The Black Hills are a NATIONAL treasure, relatively small in size and fragile; just look at what pine beetles have wrought as an example. They need to be treated as such - as a source of beauty, recreation and nicely sustainable tourism dollars, not as a disposable resource.

Please protect this resource appropriately. Do not allow corporate gold mining there ever again.

Sincerely,

Thomas Rasmussen

formerly a resident of Yankton, SD