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Comments: I object to EA Drilling in the national forest near Spearfish South Dakota. The area between Spearfish Canyon and Iron Creek Lake is rich with recreational opportunities like XC Skiing at Big Hill, Mountain Biking on Tinton Trail, and trail running at Old Baldy Mountain. Areas like Big Hill are one-of-a-kind for South Dakota and impacts to these areas would destroy one of our area's greatest assets - the draw of recreational tourism.

Even if test sites would not be directly in current recreational areas they would cause an increase in dangerous heavy equipment, the opening of closed roads that have become recreational trails, and other impacts that would degrade the recreational quality of the area. The Spearfish economy revolves around those outdoor sports such as cycling and trail running and if EA Drilling drove recreators to other parts of the Black Hills or out of the region entirely it would jeopardize the jobs, businesses, and lifestyles of the residents of Spearfish.

We don't need any more mineral extraction in the Black Hills National Forest, the public opposes this on many counts and proceeding would show a lack of accountability and respect of local communities.