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First name: Christopher

Last name: Grady

Organization: Grooming Alliance of Spearfish

Title: Treasurer

Comments: My name is Chris Grady. I am a resident of Spearfish. I am an avid outdoors person who enjoys biking in our national forest outside Spearfish. I am a board member of Grooming Alliance of Spearfish, a group that grooms winter trails under a permit from the Forest Service. I also volunteer my time in the spring, summer and fall to help maintain trails outside Spearfish on national forest land. I am writing you to strongly object this proposed mining project under the Gold Crest Exploration Project.

These proposed areas are either on or right next to officially recognized trails where our community recreates year round. I'm deeply concerned about the impact this project could have on these trail systems. Our community has worked hard to get these trails established and maintained. Are we going to loose access to the trails because of a company mining for gold?

Why does this mining project not have to have a NEPA study? In the past when certain groups have proposed more trails or trail reroutes, we are told we have to have a NEPA study. How does a mining project not have to have an in-depth NEPA study or a full environmental impact study. These mining companies should be treated the same as our recreation groups. What are the environmental risks of this project? How will it effect the water in the area? What about cultural sites?

I am also concerned about the heavy machinery traffic this project will bring to Tinton road and Roughlock road. These roads already see lots of traffic in the summer. With added trucks and machinery, I am concerned about the elevated risk to locals and tourists.

As a local citizen and avid trail volunteer, please do due diligence as far as looking into all the potential risks of proposed Gold Crest project. We have a prime example of what mining projects look like over time with the mines around Lead. It would be a shame to see this happen on the rim of Spearfish Canyon.