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First name: Brad

Last name: Blomberg

Organization:

Title:

Comments: Well this is certainly not the news I wanted to read this morning nor how I was hoping to spend my time today. However, this part of the Black Hills National Forest must be protected! Like many others who have submitted letters, I've been recreating in this area of the BHNF for nearly 20 years. While I don't live in the area, my travels to and time and money spent over the years you could say have had an impact on developing ecotourism in the area. A significant boost to the local economy.

The value of protecting peace & quiet, water quality, recreation etc. cannot be undermined by a corporation. We're talking exploratory drilling in a beautiful, relatively high elevation area with a large drainage into a National Historic Byway along Spearfish Creek. We shouldn't be talking about it. Period.

So what happens when one of the drills finds gold anyway? Who gets paid off to look the other way and allow more large mining operations to get their way?

Let's ensure that isn't something that we have to worry about.

Thank you for allowing public comment on this very important issues.