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Comments: District Ranger;

Exploratory drilling in the proposed area of the Northern Black Hills would be a huge mistake. It is such a tiny, tiny, green area that is our heritage and culture. Heavily utilized roads and construction in the area of mining were to take place in future would be foolish to say the least. Back in the mid 1980's when the Black Hills debated having the current Richmond Hill mine and others started, we're also a huge mistake, and they were in an area not utilized for recreation like today 40 years later.

Mining companies may think because we are a conservative state and voters, we will be for this, hardly not. Any referendum that reaches the ballot box will have overwhelming majority of Republican voters and %100 of Democrat voters against it. We do not want precious metal mining reshaping our landscape, period. We pass through this area to snowmobile, bike in summer, snow bike in winter, hunt 2 seasons a year, collect vegetation, day hikes, quick overnight camp trips, xc ski, alpine ski tour, etc. not on occasion, daily by thousands of Lawrence court citizens. That's why they move here, that's why I have not left.

We all understand we can still utilize the area somewhat if testing takes place, even if it were to go to surface mining. Just like Terry peak is still an ugly dirty ski area it is used because it's all we have.

Want to make a gold mine in some windswept mountain range in Wyoming 7 hunters a year visit? great, my blessing is with mining company. NIMBY on this one. This is a big waste of time.