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Comments: I recently spent a rainy Saturday hiking in Spearfish Canyon along the Iron Creek trail. The creek was rushing, leaves were budding, moss was plentiful--needless to say, it was lovely. My hike was interrupted, however, but the several mining notice signs along the trail. Spearfish Canyon, Tinton, Rd., and greater space around it is a gem in the Black Hills. It's one of those places that a first time visitor and locals alike can be inspired, whether the first visit or the 10th.

I'm also an avid skier and have spent 30 years watching the the hills near Terry Peak disappear. The scar on the land is irrevocable. I only wonder what gems were lost in that space.

South Dakota allows mining and exploratory mining on land that can be used for economic development in a sustainable way. Mountain biking is growing around the country and the Hills. This area has some of the best biking in the state. It also hosts a 800 person race over Labor Day weekend that, according to SDSU research, provides over \$350,000 in economic impact.

Please reject this mining request on behalf of the millions of yearly visitors to the Black Hills and the locals who love the unique beauty found in and around the Canyon.