

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 5/19/2023 4:17:53 PM

First name: Cole

Last name: Zdenek

Organization:

Title:

Comments: As someone who lives and recreates year-round in Spearfish and the surrounding area, I am strongly opposed to the Golden Crest Exploration Drilling Project in Spearfish Canyon. The negative consequences for exploratory drilling in the area will have profound impacts on local watersheds, wildlife, and recreational trails that are visited by thousands of people. Increased heavy machinery traffic on roads that have lots of non-motorized users will be a huge safety concern for those users. Ecotourism, that is essential to this part of the Black Hills National Forest, will take a hit even during exploratory drilling, let alone if this passes and actual mining occurs. This project will impact tourism dollars coming into local businesses that rely on such dollars, only to inflate corporate pockets if mineral resources are found.

The USFS should stop this project to protect and "care for the land and serve people"; as their motto suggests. This exploratory drilling does neither. At a minimum, a full environmental impact study should be conducted.