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Organization:

Title:

Comments: As a Spearfish resident, avid outdoorsman, mountain biker, and local board member of a prominent national conservation group, I am deeply saddened by the thought of these test sites and the potential of another mining operation in the Black Hills. I am very concerned about what this will do to our precious watershed, the wildlife, and natural beauty of Spearfish Canyon and the Big Hill area. This area is commonly used for recreation during all months of the year and I've met many people who come from out of town to enjoy this area. If we damage or destroy this with mining activity those tourism dollars go away as well. However, what concerns me most is the world I leave behind for my children. I know how vital and important quality outdoor recreation has been for me in my life and career and I want every opportunity I was given to be available for my children. We cannot simply reverse the scars left on the earth by mining and those are scars I do not want to pass along to my children. This mining investigation threatens the very reason why I choose to move here and become a resident, and will call into question my willingness to continue to reside here. Personally, if I wanted to live in an old dried up mining town that has resorted to gambling for income I would have picked Lead or Deadwood, instead I choose Spearfish. We have a beautiful place today and let's not ruin that for tomorrow!