

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 5/24/2023 3:14:12 PM

First name: Robert

Last name: Vosler

Organization:

Title:

Comments: Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the drilling project in the northern Black Hills, specifically the "greater Big Hill Area."

I am deeply vested in this immediate area. I have been since 1985. I am an avid outdoor "non motorized" recreation enthusiast. I have spent thousands of hours in the exact area of the proposed drilling project . Those activities have included cross country skiing , mountain biking , hiking , foraging, snow shoeing , hunting , fishing, running, picnicking and countless hours both summer and winter volunteering clearing trails and grooming for winter recreation .All of these activities , I have enjoyed with family , friends , and the thousand other like minded outdoor folks. This is literally my "playground."

The area of concern is actually very small . The streams are small and some seasonal , and forested areas precarious . The Forest Service has done a good job in managing forestry in the area for the most part in my mind. The Forest Service has also partnered and worked hand in hand with several recreational groups in the area to help sustain and maintain the activities that so many enjoy . The mining industry in the Hills , questionable at best. It does not take much scrutiny to visualize the devastation in the area and reclamation of many of those mined areas is non existent . While the mining industry has a long history in the area and been a reliable employer , the "boom and bust" nature of the business and environmental impact of future gold mining in this limited area will negatively impact non motorized outdoor recreation.

The real estate and business development in the northern hills is clearly exploding and this will only increase the demand for multi use recreation in the area. We have a "gem" here. I have cross country skied and mountain biked in many, if not most of the highly acclaimed areas in the US for these activities and we have equivalent or superior trails to most .

Please help us keep it that way. Please say no to drilling for future mining purposes in this area.