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First name: Brian

Last name: Peotter

Organization:

Title:

Comments: To whom it may concern,

I am writing to formally oppose the Solitario Golden Crest gold mine exploration and future gold mine in the Northern Black Hills. The largest draw to South Dakota and the Black Hills are the wonderful beauty, wildlife, recreation and tourism that we have come to know and love and why we moved to this region. The thought of having a potentially massive open cut gold mine in our very backyard is inconceivable. The tourism life blood of this region is having public access to this very popular area, which is used by many for all types of outdoor recreation including fishing, camping, mountain biking, fat biking, xc skiing, hiking, UTV'ing, snowmobiling and hunting to name a few.

This proposal/mine if ultimately approved would devastate our region, town of Spearfish and surrounding communities as well as the immense damage to wildlife. This would most likely put the main water supply to the region at risk as well including our important watershed.

We have seen time and time again the damage left behind with these types of mines and I implore you to please prevent this further exploration in our Northern Hills.

I ask that the Forest Service requires a FULL EPA assessment on the proposed activities of this project so the full scope is known of what this would do to the Northern Hills.