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First name: Ryan
Last name: Niesent
Organization: Black Hills Nordic Ski Club
Title: President
Comments: My name is Ryan Niesent. I am a resident of Spearfish and the President of the Black Hills Nordic Ski Club.

I am writing to express my deep concern regarding this proposed mining exploration drilling project at Big Hill. As an avid mountain biker, cross-country skier, and advocate for environmental preservation, I strongly believe that allowing such activities would pose significant risks and have irreversible consequences on the delicate ecosystem and the communities that depend on it.

The Big Hill area is a crucial watershed, providing clean water to surrounding communities, wildlife, and downstream ecosystems. Mining exploration drilling has the potential to contaminate surface and groundwater sources through accidental spills, leaks, or the release of toxic substances. The long-term consequences could be devastating for aquatic life, local communities, and the overall health of the watershed.

Big Hill holds immense recreational value for the public. Mining exploration drilling activities would disrupt the serene environment, create noise pollution, and diminish the forest's recreational opportunities, negatively impacting the well-being and quality of life for countless visitors and residents.

I respectfully request your support in advocating for the protection of Big Hill by opposing the mining exploration drilling project. I urge you to consider the long-term implications and prioritize the preservation of the Big Hill area.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. I hope that together we can ensure the conservation of Big Hill for the benefit of present and future generations.