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Comments: I appreciate the opportunity to comment on the Golden Crest Exploratory Drilling project. I understand that the USFS is bound by the antiquated Mining Law of 1872 to consider proposals for projects such as this one. According to the EA there will be potential impacts to groundwater, wildlife (possible threatened or endangered species), recreation, etc. The EA states that these environmental impacts will be temporary and mitigated. However, my concern is that should the exploratory drilling lead to the discovery of gold then Solitario Zinc will be requesting a full-scale mining operation. I am assuming that would lead to a NEPA required EIS which would most likely reveal some major environmental impacts to this area. As many have stated in their comments, the area of proposed drilling is our playground and brings many visitors to the area for recreational purposes. Why approve a project that could possibly lead to an operation that could devastate this part of the Black Hills. For these reasons I object to the Golden Crest Exploratory Drilling project.