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Organization:

Title:

Comments: I have been skiing, hiking, and biking the big hill trails since 1980 and in recent years have been on the trails 75 to 80 times a year. I groom trails for skiing in winter and clear trails of rocks, branches, and downed trees in summer and fall. I can say with confidence that no one has spent more time in this area in the past 40 years than me. These 20 kilometers of trails only 7 miles from Spearfish provide a small area of serenity and quiet that is difficult to find anymore and would be a tragic loss for our area should drilling exploration or mining be permitted. There is plenty of gold in the world but areas like Big Hill are becoming rare treasures. No motor vehicles are allowed on these trails for good reason: quiet and solitude are rapidly becoming our most valuable and scarce resource.