Data Submitted (UTC 11): 5/30/2023 6:46:28 PM First name: HANS Last name: STEPHENSON Organization:

Title:

Comments: I am writing to express my opposition to the Golden Crest Exploration Drilling #62590. I own and operate a fly fishing business in Rapid City. Increased mining activity threatens the healthy ecosystem we have in Spearfish Creek. This is a very important fishery for my customers, both local and those from out of town. Maintaining the health of our watersheds is vital to ensuring our Black Hills cold water fisheries continue to thrive. Mining exploration uses too much water. A resource we already have too little of. If the exploration would lead to mining, toxic chemicals used in gold mining have negative effects on brown trout, such as increased mortality. These chemicals also affect brown trout eggs and would threaten future generations of fish. We have a tourism economy. The part of the economy that I service comes to the Black Hills for the pristine watersheds, not watersheds polluted by mining runoff. Please keep mining development out of our watersheds.