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Organization:

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Comments: I think exploratory drilling and gold mining in Spearfish Canyon is a terrible idea. The Canyon is a tourist draw and a beautiful national treasure. Gold mining would detract from the natural beauty of the place and could bring severe ecological problems. I ski often at Terry Peak and see the damage gold mining has done to the beauty of the area as seen from Terry Peak. The view from Terry Peak was once wooded and pristine. Now much of the view is denuded hills, looking like brown mud. All this from the mining operation there. We should also be concerned about what the runoff from a mining operation would do to beautiful Spearfish Creek. This could affect the downstream town of Spearfish, where we live. I know the price of gold is up, but you can't buy natural beauty as is found in Spearfish Canyon. I would urge you not to endanger the ecology and beauty of Spearfish Canyon and Creek. Please do not jeopardize its economic benefit to the State and local area.