

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 6/4/2023 4:01:37 PM

First name: Joel

Last name: McKillop

Organization:

Title:

Comments: I hope you'll open these comments to the public. This drilling is on public land. What is the point of designating spaces under the purview of the US forest service if you don't protect those lands? Isn't that the entire reason you exist?

Solitario Zinc is a South American company based in Colorado. To all my friends who care about our local economy, do you really want an outside company taking OUR resources? Are you willing to risk the value of your home? To everyone concerned about water, nearly 3/4 of mining operations are proven to contaminate water supplies. To all my friends who graze cattle, you'll lose access to FS land and risk livestock health. To all my friends who love this land, the exploratory drilling is from Big Hill to Hanna. That includes Spearfish Canyon and Roughlock. That impacts like 50 miles of trail and hundreds of miles of habitat. For my friends who fish, think about fishing in the past tense. To anyone who says mining creates jobs, I see you and hear you. I hope you'll read the impact statement of the Whitewood disaster. To my friends who love to hunt, this will make a massive area of OUR national forest inaccessible.

The only people this will benefit are the execs at Solitario. The losers are the rest of us. Water is worth more than gold.