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Organization:

Title:

Comments: I am writing to express my concern over the exploration and possible mining in Spearfish Canyon. There are several important issues that should discourage these potential actions:

1. Exploration and/or mining will significantly affect, possibly poison, the water supply for Spearfish and the surrounding areas. The monetary gain of a mining company should not take precedence over the health and safety of our local people.
2. Most of the area population live in the Black Hills because they love the untouched natural beauty here. This beauty, regardless of the reparation of the land, will be ruined by mining, as has happened in other parts of the Black Hills.
3. Recreational activities in Spearfish Canyon, such as rock climbing, fishing, hiking, and biking, will be severely restricted by the fencing off of exploration and/or mining activity areas, due to safety concerns. The enjoyment of these activities will also be diminished by the noise pollution, and possibly air pollution caused by exploration/mining.

For these reasons, I encourage the Forest Service to do everything possible to stop mining exploration in the Black Hills and specifically in Spearfish Canyon. I understand that a mineral exemption is being proposed for Pactola Reservoir. Might this be a possibility for Spearfish Canyon? Please do all you can to save our beautiful resources and our way of life!

Sincerely,

Pam Soriano, Spearfish Resident