

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 6/5/2023 5:43:48 PM

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Comments: I am very concerned over the potential exploration and possible mining in Spearfish Canyon. The following important issues should be considered:

1. Exploration and/or mining will negatively impact the water supply for Spearfish and the surrounding areas.

Aren't the health and welfare of people more important than mining?

2. The pristine, natural beauty in Spearfish Canyon will be ruined by the impact of mining activities.

3. Recreational activities in Spearfish Canyon like fishing, hiking, climbing, and biking will be severely restricted due to mining fences and barricades.

4. What about other environmental issues such as air and noise pollution caused by exploration and mining?

Won't that pollution adversely affect humans, not to mention our abundant wildlife?

Because of these issues, I strongly encourage the Forest Service to stop mining exploration in the Black Hills and specifically in Spearfish Canyon. Might a mineral exemption be a possibility for Spearfish Canyon? Please save our Canyon from this needless fiscal intrusion into our way of life!

Sincerely,

Paul Soriano, Spearfish Resident