

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 6/6/2023 2:02:17 AM

First name: Andrew

Last name: Johnson

Organization:

Title:

Comments: Hello,

My name is Andrew Johnson and I have lived in the Black Hills all of my life. I oppose the project of Golden Crest Exploration Drilling #62590 and I strongly believe that an EIS (Environmental Impact Statement) should be produced before this project can move forward. Living within the watershed that this project will take place in, I am outright concerned that there will be a significant ecological impact to the waters in this area. One of my strongest passions in life is fly fishing in Spearfish Creek which is downhill from this project. In the past, mining activities have completely destroyed entire aquatic ecosystems in the Black Hills (i.e. Whitewood Creek), and other sites were left extremely polluted and abandoned by mining companies to become fenced off by the EPA as an ongoing burden to taxpaying citizens (Gilt Edge Mine). As a local of this area, it is very difficult to trust mining companies who claim that their activities will not produce a lasting impact on the area, both financially and ecologically, as their claims have turned out false. The areas that this project is proposed to take place in are popular areas of recreation, as well as logging, and grazing of cattle. There are also sensitive species of both plants and animals living in this area. As of now, we do not know how this project will affect any or all of those things, so at the bare minimum it makes sense to investigate further how this project will affect the ecosystem by conducting an Environment Impact Statement (EIS). Mining nonrenewable resources supports an unsustainable culture of boom and bust which has proven itself to be detrimental to local ecosystems and economies hundreds of times over throughout the American West. As a society, we should consider developing sustainable ways to interact with and benefit from our National Forests.