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Organization:

Title:

Comments:

I am a resident of Aspen Hills, a development located south of Spearfish on the Tinton Road, approximately 2 miles before Big Hill. My husband and I built our house in Aspen Hills to enjoy the forest, deer, turkey, mountain lions, and quiet. Our son and his family have a cabin at Iron Creek Lake. We love going there to enjoy the water and the quiet.

Over the 16 years that we have lived in Aspen Hills, we have seen an increase in traffic due to people travelling to Iron Creek Lake and Big Hill. These are recreational areas which bring people to the hills for camping, swimming, biking, skiing, running, and RVing. The trails along Tinton Road are used for bike races (Dakota 50 and CASA) and running races (trail series through Black Hills Running Club). Big Hill is used for hiking, cross country skiing, and snowshoeing. These are destination activities which bring people to the Spearfish area and can have a positive economic impact. The forest up here is also used by ranchers for their cattle in the summer. How will drilling and mining affect them?

With the increased traffic comes increased wear and tear to Tinton Road. We now have more washboards, potholes and DUST. If heavy equipment is required for drilling and mining, will Soltario Zinc assume any responsibility for maintaining Tinton Road?

My husband and I are season pass holders at Terry Peak and have seen the devastation done to the surrounding area by the Coeur Wharf Gold Mine. What is the positive impact of that mining? How is that land going to be reclaimed, as it will NEVER be what it was before the mining.

Please do an Environmental Impact Study to evaluate the impact on water quality to the Spearfish Canyon watershed, local aquifers (where I get my water), flora, fauna, and potential loss of tourism dollars to this area.

Please don't take away the outdoor opportunities to be in the beautiful national forest by drilling and mining.

Thank You.