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Comments: I am strongly opposed to the Golden Crest exploration drilling project.

First and foremost I feel that it is absolutely necessary and should be mandatory, that a full EIA be done prior to any exploratory drilling. We are required to have them done prior to any trail building that we propose to do, so why would a mining company be excluded from this process. They will do far more damage to an area than any trail building operation would do. They will be driving in heavy equipment, making continuous loud noise with their equipment, disrupting wildlife, disturbing the ground and habitats of many plant and animal species and drilling into the aquifer that supplies our drinking water!

We also need to preserve public access and usage of this area that has been growing in use over the last 20 years. It is used year round by bikers, hikers, horseback riders, walkers, runners, fisherman, skiers, hunters, UTV's and snowmobilers. This recreation is a large part of the tourism dollars from people that travel to Spearfish to enjoy the outdoors. It could have devastating consequences to the economic impact these users bring to Spearfish if the areas tranquility is disrupted by any drilling, which could in turn lead to further large scale mining of the area. We put on several bike races in the area that brings in thousands of riders from out of state to enjoy the trails and forest roads in these very areas that have proposed drilling sites. The economic impact of these events alone is a half million dollars or more a year. Recreation is a huge part of the Spearfish community and the health of its individuals. Having a place to recreate that is peaceful and tranquil is extremely important for both physical and mental health. The lands we recreate on must be preserved!