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Organization:

Title:

Comments: As a life long resident of spearfish I've seen this area change considerably. Not all of it good. I hunt and fish in the black hills as well as hike and snow shoe. I believe the greatest resource we have in the Northern Black hills is the national forest. It makes Spearfish what it is today. It's a huge reason people love this town. The forest is a short respite from the busy work week for the locals as well. It's a small area and any new mining in the area proposed would greatly impact all of what we hold sacred for our community.

I'm concerned that any new mining in this area would greatly impact the ecosystem. Elk, mule deer Mtn goats, white tailed deer and numerous other creatures inhabit this land and would be severely impacted. Spearfish creek would no doubt be threatened.

I do own a cabin with in a couple miles of the area involved and I can also see the mine on Terry peak which has greatly increased in size and impact to the environment. The lights are a serious source of light pollution at night. I would expect the same night operation of any future mining to be similar.

Noise is a factor as well. Sound carry's a long ways up the hills and nothing associated with mining is quiet.

In closing I'd like to ask the forest service the reject any new exploration of minerals in the northern black hills as I believe the negative impact would be too great on our community and once it's lost we'll never get it back. Thank you

Sincerely, Cody Hemeyer