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Comments: I write you today to voice my strong opposition to any exploration for any minerals whatsoever in the Spearfish Canyon area. The only reason to do exploration would be to then do mining if gold is found. Mining in these areas would have a devastating impact on the environment, and the enjoyment of these areas by citizens of the area. These public lands should be for all, not for a mining company to come in and destroy. That statement isn't based on opinion, but is a well-proven fact based on the long history of destructive mining in the Black Hills. It is easy to witness, right now, this fact in modern day mining in the Black Hills as well by simply visiting the open pit mine near Spearfish Canyon. Past and present gold mining in the Black Hills has resulted in large swaths of destruction of scenic land, with wealth going to small few in private corporations and very little economic impact in the hills. Meanwhile, other industries and the community as a whole are damaged by these actions.