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First name: Eric

Last name: Henneman

Organization:

Title:

Comments: There is only one purpose of exploratory drilling. To determine if enough ore exists to make a profit. In the event the ore content is high, the amount of money and resources a company will spend to get mining approval will coincide with potential profits. Spearfish Canyon and the proposed areas needs to be protected indefinitely. The water shed protections mines put in place fail too often. Negative impact on wildlife, from activity and resonance from heavy machinery is incalculable. This area is one of the most sought after scenic byways in the US and any level of jeopardy whatsoever should not be considered. Trails systems, hiking, biking that are there for generations to come will be impacted. Once addicted to the production the chances of mind expansion get very high, and view shed/reclamation laws in our state leave mine areas looking horrible. There is only one logical answer to requests for mine expansion into the area of Spearfish Canyon. NO