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Organization:

Title:

Comments: For the good of the public record, let it be known that I am strongly opposed to the Golden Crest Exploratory Drilling project, proposed to take place southwest of Spearfish, South Dakota.

Per the current USFS draft Environmental Assessment (EA), there will be potential impacts to groundwater, wildlife (possible threatened or endangered species), recreation, and more. The draft EA states that these environmental impacts will be temporary and mitigated. That statement is pure speculation. There is no guarantee that the impacts would not be long-term or severe. Think: a catastrophic forest fire caused by the mechanical drilling equipment. One overheated drill bit or stray spark is all that it could take.

I respectfully request that the USFS exercise its legally available No Action Alternative with this proposal. Or, at minimum, find it necessary to proceed with a full-scale Environmental Impact Statement, before allowing this exploratory drilling to proceed.