

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 6/8/2023 3:52:27 AM

First name: Anon

Last name: Anon

Organization: South Dakota Chapter of Backcountry Hunters & Anglers

Title:

Comments: Dear Mr. Kozel,

The South Dakota Chapter of Backcountry Hunters & Anglers, the voice for our wild public lands, waters, and wildlife, we write to oppose the Golden Crest Exploration Drilling Project in the Black Hills of South Dakota. This drilling project would hinder the ability of residents and non-residents to recreate.

This project would have several significant impacts on recreational opportunities, water quality, wildlife, and the economy of the surrounding region. In similar mining practices around the country, Backcountry Hunter & Anglers has seen foreign mining companies promise jobs and a boom to the local economy, only to offer those jobs to foreign entities that strip our land of its resources for short-term economic gain and leave the region with nothing but a permanent scar on the landscape.

This area of the Black Hills is a critical area for water concerns and could affect aquifers and specifically Spearfish Creek that flows through the famous Spearfish Canyon, a National Historic Byway. It is important to much of the Black Hills wildlife populations. It is likely that the additional development of roads and 24-hour activity at the drill pads will impact the wildlife. Additional disturbance could further harm these populations. Not only could the project have detrimental effects to hunting and fishing opportunities and wildlife populations, but could impact hiking, camping, and mountain biking, all of which contribute to the local and regional recreational economy.

We also request a full Environmental Impact Statement on this project.

Thank you for your support of the public lands, waters, and wildlife of South Dakota, and to your commitment to the hunters, anglers, and outdoorsmen and women that recreate there. I appreciate you taking these concerns into consideration and hope that you will oppose moving forward with the Golden Crest Exploration project.

South Dakota Chapter of Backcountry Hunters and Anglers