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Comments: I find it totally appalling that this project is even being considered in light of the fragile nature of the entire Spearfish Creek drainage. History has shown the destructive, irreversible damaging effects mining has caused in the Black Hills to date. We need to apply preservation management directives as opposed to conservation management in the areas that are not disturbed by previous large scale mining operations. I oppose any and all new mining operations in the entire Black Hills National Forest. In this era of diminishing pristine public land we need to put a stop to the exploitation of public lands to serve the needs of only a few greedy individuals and corporations and preserve our public lands, waterways and air quality for the needs of all American citizens. The upper reaches of Spearfish Creek is one of the few zones that has adequate, consistent snow pack to allow for cross country and back country skiing. This proposed mining project would be a total disaster if it is allowed to move forward.