

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 6/8/2023 1:17:59 PM

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Comments: Spearfish Canyon is one of the treasures of the Black Hills and needs to be protected from any activity that will decrease its beauty or the pleasure it brings to all who visit it. Having owned property in Spearfish Canyon for over 50 years, my family has always been interested in protecting it.

There are numerous places throughout the Black Hills where the land has been ravaged and polluted as a result of gold mining. Even though mining companies claim new methods of exploring are safe, the risk of a "leak" or "spill" is always possible.

The need for gold is not nearly as important as maintaining the beauty of one of the gems of Lawrence County, South Dakota, and the United States. I oppose this request from Golden Crest to drill in Spearfish Canyon.