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Organization:

Title:

Comments: I grew up in Spearfish, South Dakota exploring the wonderful Black Hills National Forest that was my backyard. In a matter of miles, you can experience boreal, rocky mountain, eastern woodland and prairie ecosystems. The Black Hills is a rare island of biodiversity and home to countless species of unique flora and fauna. People visit and live in the Black Hills to experience this unspoiled beauty and natural wonder.

I am writing in strong opposition to the Gold Crest Exploration Drilling Project. As a steward of the land that we call home, I urge the US National Forest Service to carry out an Environmental Impact Statement to ensure that the detriments of this project are brought to light and fairly compared against any small economic benefit the mining may bring. This project has the potential to cause severe environmental damage to a delicate ecosystem, pollute the watershed of thousands of people, and ruin a robust tourism and recreation economy that many rural towns rely on.

These types of projects permanently scar ecosystems and we cannot stand by and let short term greed overrule the long term protection of the land that sustains us.