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Comments: This truly feels like a lost cause. Antiquated mining "rights" over-riding all other multiple-user groups while suggesting (Solitario) it will have minimal (negative) environmental and recreational impact, is insulting to those who live and recreate in the Northern Hills. The economic gain for Solitario is at the expense of everyone who lives in and visits this area. One needs only look from Big Hill to the east side of Spearfish Canyon to see the potential of large-scale mining. Solitario is simply going through steps necessary to expand their operation; exploratory drilling will confirm what it already has a pretty good idea exists on these drilling sites. Those of us who have recently ridden or hiked through Twin Bridges and Iron Creek drainages have seen firsthand what heavy rains can do in the areas that Solitario wishes to setup shop. No amount of mitigation can guarantee that one or more of these proposed sites won't wash out and flow into said drainages. Solitario jokingly minimizes its quality-of-life impact by presenting decibel equivalents (within its Project Documents). I don't ride/hike/ski in the Hills with earbuds as I want to hear nature. If I wished to listen to the din of machines, I could simply stay at home and hear the mill (which was here long before I), the hum of town, etc. There are fewer places available to enjoy the outdoors, to view wildlife, to smell the forest, to listen to the movement of trees in the wind. This project steals nature from all of us. The break from the drone of urban life to be replaced at a minimum by noise and light (night operations) pollution and at worse irreparable damage and contamination to the drill sites and drainage areas. No amount of so-called reclamation will restore that which Solitario hopes to take.