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First name: Colin

Last name: Kuester

Organization:

Title:

Comments: I live above the west rim of Spearfish Canyon in Mountain Plains 2. I would like to offer my support of Solitario's exploration plan to determine if there are any marketable resources.

Resource development is essential to our society, and blindly opposing it is simplistic and short-sighted. Modern mining can, and should, impose no impact on clean water supplies, and proper reclamation bonding can ensure that no new development ends up as a superfund site. Any public concerns can, and should, be mitigated if Solitario determines that there is a valuable enough resource to exploit.

As an avid cross-country skier, I would even offer my support of an open pit mine development at Big Hill if Solitario were to build new trails nearby and endow a fund to support trail grooming. Big Hill is nice to have because it is our best XC ski area, but the network of trails is not very good. Because of the terrain and loop layout, it is minimally functional and not family-friendly. A replacement would be better, and anyone lamenting the "loss" of Big Hill is thinking small.

I support the exploration.