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First name: Dan

Last name: Cross

Organization:

Title:

Comments: I have lived in the Black Hills for close to 50 years and gold mining has been nothing but a legacy of pollution and environmental destruction. The scars are throughout the Black Hills and the public is still dealing with the remnants of the destruction they have caused. Spearfish Canyon is one of the most significant tourism destinations in the state, and the region, bringing in thousands of people every year to explore its hiking trails, fish the waters, ride the trails, and view the wildlife. Mining Spearfish Canyon will not only have a negative impact on the environment, but a negative impact on a robust tourist industry and a population that loves its forest. Lastly, I request that a full environmental impact study be completed before any exploratory drilling occurs or any operations proceed. Spearfish Canyon needs to be protected not exploited. Please do not allow this operation to proceed. Thank you.