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Organization:

Title:

Comments: I strongly oppose the exploratory drilling as proposed in the scope of Golden Crest project.

The future of the Spearfish economy relies on growth, not extraction. We must grow our quality of life, grow our business capabilities, grow our tourism, grow our education, and grow our human capital. A critical component of building the vibrant and robust economy of the future is the fantastic natural environment around Spearfish provides recreational opportunities for residents, hunters, hikers, bikers, skiers, and tourists.

I was born and raised in Spearfish, SD. The natural spaces around Spearfish lead me to a love of cycling, to become an entrepreneur in the cycling industry and ultimately to start and build my business in Spearfish. This business now employs over 50 people, including many highly paid careers in manufacturing, engineering, and software development, that contribute millions of dollars to the Spearfish economy every year. This business is dependent on the fantastic cycling environment provided by the US National Forest in the Spearfish area. We could not attract and retain high-tech talent without it.

The mission of the USFS is to: "To sustain the health, diversity, and productivity of the Nation's forests and grasslands to meet the needs of present and future generations." The present and future generations of the residents of Spearfish therefore rely on the USFS to protect and sustain the forests and grasslands of the surrounding area.

A complete Environmental Impact Study (EIS) must be done to fully understand the impact of this project. The future economic prosperity of the Spearfish depends on the protection of the natural environment that provides the foundation for growth of the community.

James Meyer

Spearfish, SD

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