

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 6/9/2023 4:33:06 AM

First name: Raeann

Last name: Mettler

Organization:

Title:

Comments: Opposing the exploration drilling in Spearfish Canyon for the protection of this unique ecosystem and the diverse living organisms present. One of mention is thrle American Dipper,an aquatic songbird which requires high quality water and abundant aquatic microinvertebrates. We have an isolated population of dippers in Spearfish Canyon, reduced from historically larger populations inhabiting additonal Black Hills watershed. It is our obligation to protect this population and species, which is a Threatened Species in SD. It is our obligation to be good stewards of the lands and waters and set this example for future generations as well. Water is sacred. The Black Hills are sacred. Let instead explore with our curiosities, binoculars, gentle steps and fly rods - not with drills.

Dr. Raeann Mettler

PhD Natural Sciences