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Organization:

Title:

Comments: Request to suspend Mining Activity in Jenny Gulch for 20 years

I am writing to submit an Environmental Impact Statement with the purpose of requesting the suspension of any mining activity in Jenny Gulch for 220 years. I will provide environmental justification for this request.

Jenny Gulch, located within the Black Hills National Forest, is an ecologically significant area that contains a diverse range of flora and fauna. The balance of its ecosystems has been integral to maintaining the region's biodiversity and supporting rare and endangered species. The proposed increase in mining activity in the area poses a significant threat to the environmental integrity of Jenny Gulch.

#### Environmental Justification:

##### 1. Threat to Biodiversity:

Mining activities involve excavations, deforestation, and the release of toxic chemicals into the environment. These activities disrupt the habitats of various plant and animal species. Suspending mining for 20 years will allow for these ecosystems to maintain their natural biodiversity.

##### 2. Water quality Concerns:

Mining operations often result in the release of heavy metals, chemicals, and sediments into rivers, streams, and groundwater sources. The contamination of water bodies in Jenny Gulch can have detrimental effects on the local hydrological system and pose risks to aquatic life, as well as impacting downstream communities. The suspension of mining will ensure proper monitoring and restoration measures will prevent water quality degradation.

##### 3. Cultural and Recreational Value:

Jenny Gulch holds cultural and recreational value for local communities and visitors. It provides opportunities for hiking, wildlife observation, watersports, and cultural significance to indigenous groups. By suspending mining operations, the aesthetic appeal and intrinsic value to Jenny Gulch will be preserved.

#### Conclusion:

In consideration of the environmental risks associated with mining in Jenny Gulch, I respectfully request the US Forest Service to suspend any mining activity within this region for 20 years. This moratorium will allow for protection of the area's biodiversity, protection of water quality, and the preservation of its cultural and recreational value.

Thank you for your attention to this pressing matter.