

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 12/19/2023 3:17:59 PM

First name: Douglas

Last name: Hanson

Organization:

Title:

Comments: This letter is to express my objection and opposition to the Golden Crest Exploratory Drilling Project. The Forest Service's assessment that this project "will not significantly impact the human environment" is not true. The Spearfish Canyon is a Scenic Byway and gets thousands of visitors each year; local, out of state and out of country. To say that a project that will last 5 years with drilling going on at all hours with lights and generators is not going to significantly impact the human environment is ridiculous. In addition, all the areas where actual drilling will take place are heavily used recreationally; by hikers, fisherman and hunters. This includes some motorized trails that will be directly impacted by equipment. This 5 year disruption is going to displace the wildlife, interrupt use of trails in the area and generally reduce the public's enjoyment of the area. How does that translate into "not impacting the human environment" ? The biggest issue is the water required for this project. 10,000 gallons per day or 1,000 gallons per hour is a staggering amount of water needed. The decision states that the water will be obtained from a local source or a municipal source (Deadwood/Lead). This will greatly reduce the amount of water available for municipal use, reduce stream flows if from a local source and severely impact fisheries, especially during the hotter, drier times of the summer. So once again, how does this translate into having no significant impact on the human environment ? But the human environment is not the only issue. It will impact fisheries by limiting in-stream flows. It will displace wildlife during the summer and fall months and limit areas available to them for feeding and browsing. It will contribute more emissions from the drilling equipment, disruption and degradation of the drill sites and the immediate areas adjacent to the drill sites and pose a very real danger of groundwater pollution from the holding ponds. It will pose a danger of groundwater pollution from the storage of equipment, fuel, lubricants and other chemicals on site.

To say that the total area impacted by 25 drill sites will only be 2 acres is unrealistic and not true. There is no way that all activities at each drill site can be contained within an area only 25 feet by 75 feet. This is misleading and not helpful to the objective consideration of a decision like this.

I don't believe that this project "does not significantly impact the human environment". It does impact the human environment, as well as, fisheries, wildlife, recreation, water supply and water quality.

This project calls for a more comprehensive analysis and more scrutiny. More public comment and involvement should be allowed before such an important decision like this is made.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment and voice my objection to this project.