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First name: Jim Last name: Wika Organization:

Title:

Comments: As a long time resident of Spearfish Canyon and Lawrence County, I have seen the negative effects of mining in a very limited environment. Spearfish Canyon is a national scenic byway for a reason and needs to be protected as such. Surface mining or any mining in this area should not be allowed under any circumstances.. Allowing outside corporations and especially foreign owned companies to destroy this relatively small area for the sake of corporate profit is unwanted by a majority of residents in Lawrence County and federal agencies should absolutely hold this majority opinion in a higher regard than the wishes of a for profit company that will, by the very nature of their business, destroy the environment, and threaten the water supply for thousands of local residents. The Black Hills are littered with failed mining operations continuing to cause damage. This proposed mining operation should not be one of them.