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Organization:
Title:
Comments:

I am writing to state my objection to the proposed exploration and subsequent mining in the northern Black Hills.

I have lived in Spearfish for 43 years and spend 50 to 90 days per year in the Big Hill and proposed exploration areas in the Black Hills. This is an oasis of solitude prohibiting motorized vehicles in an area of rapidly increasing population. It is the only real groomed nordic skiing venue between Casper, Wyoming and Minneapolis. To lose this valuable piece of beauty for something as trite as a gold mine would be disastrous. There is no shortage of gold in this country or the world. Most of it is used for jewelry. There is, however, a growing shortage of natural areas where one can find peace and quiet and in the future these areas will become scarcer and in short supply. To allow a company to turn this corner of our world into a mine for their own enrichment to the detriment of local desires and if history is any guide, into a federal superfund site, would be the most shortsighted decision in my 43 years as a Spearfish resident.

There is no shortage of jobs in our area, so job promotion is a false argument for this mine. There is no shortage of gold. To allow outside profiteers destroy our local environment would be a travesty.