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Comments: With fresh water access continually in the Nation's spotlight, diverting and potentially contaminating hundreds of millions of gallons to process a precious metal that already sits unused in pawn shops is a very poor use of natural resources.

In addition to the potential impact on our local water supply, there is a certain impact to the quality of life for anyone that frequents the northern Black Hills; human and animal alike. The proposed drill pad sites, let alone the actual open pit mining that will follow, breaks up established multi-use trail networks, tears up the fragile infrastructure and negatively alters the landscape for generations to come.

This also impacts that local businesses that thrive only because of access to forest roads and trails.

The Forest Service needs to protect the Black Hills and not let them be crushed to create countless high school class rings.