

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 1/18/2024 6:49:40 PM

First name: Justin

Last name: Herreman

Organization:

Title:

Comments: As a frequent user of the Big Hill Recreation Area and Iron Creek Lake Campground I am appalled by the idea that this proposed exploration project would proceed under a Finding of No Significant Impact.

Tinton Road is a very heavily used access road in the Northern Hills for those of us who like to Nordic (cross country) Ski on the ONLY groomed trail in the Black Hills at Big Hill Recreation Area. Tinton Road is the ONLY access point that is a fully uncontested public road for Big Hill. The movement of heavy equipment, water, and traffic for the workers running the equipment will put a substantial burden and impact on this access road. The noise of the drilling equipment will have a serious and substantial impact on the users of the Big Hill are many of us whom go there to enjoy the peacefulness of the outdoors and to recreate in the quiet of nature. There will be a significant impact to the area, the wildlife, and the users so a FONSI is not acceptable until these issues have been taken into account under an EIS with actual "boots on the ground" surveying the area and impact.

Iron Creek Lake Campground is commonly accessed via Tinton Road and Iron Creek Lake is a world class fishery that SD Game Fish and Parks stocks on a regular basis. As a frequent user of the campground and lake I can argue that this proposed exploration project will have a substantial impact on the users of this location and it's facilities.

As a frequent turkey hunter I can tell you this exploration project will have a substantial impact on the wildlife in the area. The two significant tornadic wind events in the last several years have changed the nature of the area and Elk and Deer are moving into the area with the predators that follow them behind this migration. I have found smooth green snakes on multiple occasions in several of the very unique riparian areas adjacent to this exploration project and the drilling and exploration project as proposed WILL have a detrimental impact on all of these wildlife species.

A finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) for this project is not acceptable as the proposed exploration project WILL have a SIGNIFICANT and SUBSTANTIAL impact on the wildlife, riparian areas, habitat, human recreation, and the roads and infrastructure in the area. I strongly object to this finding and request that a full EIS that takes into account all of the potential cultural resources and other impacts be completed prior to this project proceeding.