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Comments: The "Golden Crest" gold exploration drilling project sits on 28,000 acres of public lands on the west rim of the Spearfish Canyon. These public lands belong to the people of the United States and should be held sacred.

Multiple drill sites are located 1/10th of a mile from Tinton Road that hosts several hiking and biking trails. This is a very popular area with locals and tourists. Many sites are located 100 to 500 feet from a creek.

Solitario is a company listed on the stock market. They are beholden to shareholders and not to the citizens of the Black Hills. They do not live here nor do they care what happens to our water sources or ecology. What happens to the citizens of Spearfish once our water is contaminated? It is dangerous to ignore this potential disaster.

Solitario has stated they intend to sell the project if they find gold. This screams greed and ignores the consequences of our environment and water sources.

The world has enough gold. This metal can be recycled as it has been for decades. Our state doesn't need to provide more gold for the sake of shareholders. Pro-drillers comment that we need gold for our phones. I believe people are intelligent enough to invent an alternative to gold to run our phones. This is a lazy and unimaginative excuse.

Gilt Edge Mine outside of Lead/Deadwood is a superfund site. The Federal government has attempted to "fix" the contamination for several years. Now the taxpayers of SD are responsible for paying for this disaster.

It is unthinkable the Forest Service would issue a "Finding of No Significant Impact" (FONSI) for Golden Crest. The Black Hills has already experienced severe and ongoing contamination from Gilt Edge which is "significant". This proposal projects five calendar years and over two years of active drilling. This disruption is "significant." This time period opens the door to air pollution as well as threats to the environment and water supply to Spearfish. Our wildlife and bird population cannot defend themselves. This will disrupt tourism and winter/summer sporting activities for countless families. Again, this is "significant."

It is imperative to stop this project. There is too much at risk just for the greed-driven profits of Solitario.

Please stop this project. It is imperative to protect our ecology, water sources for the people of Spearfish and our wildlife.