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Organization:

Title:

Comments: I am opposed to any mining in the Spearfish Canyon and surrounding area. One concern is that of water; Spearfish gets its drinking water from the canyon area. Mining can cause unhealthy water that could cause illnesses. This water is also used for irrigation and that means vegetables that we eat could be contaminated. Another area of water concern is for our schools; students do experiments with the water. The loss of school projects would mean less learning.

Recreation is another area of concern. Contaminated water in the creek would mean that our children couldn't play in the water, which means the loss of healthy recreation ways. Other recreation concerns that mining would interfere with are hiking, biking, skiing, and snowshoeing. The mining holes are close to Big Hill which is an important outside recreation area. Recreation gives exercise which is important for healthy bodies; that prevents illnesses. Many tourists come for recreation in this area of Spearfish Canyon and Big Hill. It is a way that our town receives income; the loss of income would hurt the town and the other Black Hills area towns.

A third concern is for the wildlife in the Spearfish Canyon area of the Black Hills. My husband and I have owned a cabin in this area of the hills for 20 years. There are fewer animals now than when we first bought the cabin. At the beginning, silence was found in the hills, but now four wheelers are heard throughout the day; in other words, noise is a problem. It stresses the animals. The mining vehicles would cause even more noise pollution and more stress for the wildlife.

Please consider saying no to mining in the Spearfish Canyon area. Thank you for your consideration.