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Comments: I have many problems with the US Forest Service issuance a "Finding of No Significant Impact" (FONSI) and issued a draft decision for the Golden Crest gold exploration project.

Not only does this project pose a serious risk to water quality in Lawrence County - including Spearfish Creek -- it would also disrupt wildlife, disregard protections for certain species, add to our worsening air quality issues, and directly interrupt the recreation and tourism industry in our area.

One of the drill sites sits directly on one of the most popular mountain bike trails in the Black Hills, and multiple sites are within one quarter-mile of well-known hiking trails. I hike these trails regularly and have many friends who hike, bike, ski, and recreate in this area. To say that there is no impact to the multimillion-dollar tourism industry is overlooking a huge portion of jobs and lifestyles for so many Black Hills residents.

By federal law (and the USFS is a federal agency) Tribal consultation is required on all projects on federal lands. Your "consultation" is totally inadequate for this project, as it consisted of just sending letters to potentially impacted tribes and hoping they arrived. Remember who the white government stole the lands in the sacred Black Hills. Do we not owe the tribal nations respect when making decisions that they have a right to be in the conversation?

Overall, I am OPPOSED to Golden Crest gold exploration project, which sits on nearly 30,000 acres on the west rim of Spearfish Canyon impact so greatly water, wildlife, recreation, quiet, air quality and set the precedence for "findings of no significant impacts" with other potential mining in the Black Hills NF.