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Organization:

Title:

Comments: OBJECTION: Golden Crest Exploration Drilling Project

<https://cara.fs2c.usda.gov/Public//CommentInput?Project=62590>.

I wish to object to the exploratory drilling for gold in the Northern Hills Ranger District of the Black Hills National Forest. I have lived in many states and many countries, but I have retired to Spearfish, South Dakota, because I think it is the most beautiful place in the world. I am an avid hiker, skier and biker in the Black Hills, and more often than not, I am wandering around off trails, relishing the pristine, sacred beauty of this place. I do not want this area to become like the area off of Annie Creek-which dead-ends into Wharf Mines, which is very noisy with all the mining equipment running

As concerns "harmless" exploratory drilling, this seems to be an oxymoron. It is technically possible and "harmless" to do exploratory drilling under a federal building, but we don't, because no one plans to mine there. So the only purpose of exploratory mining is a subsequent commercial mining.

Commercial open-pit mining is destructive; the toxic cyanide and other chemicals including radioactive contamination mostly from Uranium, are poisonous for water, soil, people and animals. Despite the geotechnical preventive measures, accidents and spills happen! Northern Black Hills waters are already contaminated by the previous mining activities in the area and a new mining will only contribute to more contamination.

Mining will have a negative impact on our local lives and our small businesses. People live here, visit here, because of the quality of air and water, the beauty of the hills, and the outdoor life. This brings tourists and is an important aspect of our local economy.

For the sake of our Sacred Paha Sapa, our unique landscape, our traditions and local unique culture, land which formed millions of years before federal buildings were built, please do not allow exploratory drilling in the Black Hills! Perhaps trees or grass can be replaced. BUT geological structures CANNOT be replaced. We prize this area, we do not want to undermine it. Exploration means subsequent undermining of the iconic Canyon and the fragile ecosystem of our Black Hills.

Please, we ask you to not allow exploratory mining in the Black Hills.

Thank you,

Donna

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