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First name: Janet

Last name: Lindsey

Organization:

Title:

Comments: To whom it may concern,

I am writing this objection letter opposing all exploration drilling of this proposed project. I have lived here since 1976 when I came to work with Dr. Robert Gartner (SDSU) to do the first research on controlled burning in the Black Hills with Wind Cave National Park. I have hiked, biked and skied on both maintained trail areas and in the "backcountry". My objections are the following.

1. Recreation.... the areas proposed would involve Big Hill, connector trails to Old Baldy mt trails, Eagle cliff trails and lastly the Dead Horse/Hells gate area which is one of the few areas that All Terrain Backcountry skiers and snowboarders can use where they are not in conflict with snowmobilers. These areas should be left pristine for this recreational use.... both summer and winter.

2. Wildlife.... I have never been in the Eagle Cliff and Hells gate areas summer hiking/biking or winter x-country skiing and AT backcountry skiing where I haven't either seen the elk herd or seen fresh signs of them. They are already highly stressed as their habitat is being reduced by all the housing being built and ATV's and snowmobiles that don't stay on the trail and go through the areas they live in. Just last week we saw snowmobiles go around the gate on 206 2A into the nonmotorized management area track in that area was EVERYWHERE. This elk herd can not continue to be this stressed especially in winter and calving season. All this mining activity is just adding to their stress.

3. water quality.... we are also fly fishers. We fish the upper Spearfish creek area around Hell's gate gulch frequently. We have witnessed a "gully washer" thunderstorm where water just poured out of the gulches into Spearfish creek. We don't need mining contamination to run into the headwaters of that creek or downstream. It is a beautiful Clear Clean creek and should remain that way!

PLEASE deny all attempts to explore and mine in these areas. Thank you