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Comments: I am against any mining being proposed in the Black Hills, especially the Rochford Mineral Exploratory Drilling Project. Although it is called the US Forest the land belongs to the Lakota people according to US treaty. The project is right next to Pe' Sla is a sacred site or homeland to which Lakota people return ceremonially multiple times throughout the year. The animals who are residents of the forest, as well as the forest itself deserve the respect of being left as is /undisturbed by mining. None of us would want our homes dug up for the benefit of a local family that already makes a ludicrous amount of money digging up the earth elsewhere in the area.

Beyond the direct localized consequences of drilling exploration in the drilling area, the exploration could contaminate water in the upper Rapid Creek watershed, since some of the proposed drill pads are very close to streams. And there is also the potential for contamination or cross-contamination of underground water sources.

I also think there has not been enough time allocated for people to comment about this project. I request a 60-day or longer extension of the "scoping" public comment period, so everyone has an opportunity to comment ESPECIALLY since the link to the project information page from the USFS Projects page - <https://www.fs.usda.gov/r02/blackhills/projects> - currently offers NO INFO: We're sorry, but the project listings are not available at this time. Please try again later.