

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 6/22/2025 9:10:38 PM

First name: Jeannie

Last name: Bush

Organization:

Title:

Comments: I strongly object to the Ponderosa Project for these reasons:

1. proximity to sacred Native grounds ~ we live about a mile from the 385 road construction. The truck noise, backing up beeps, amount of truck activity ~ all of it travels in this terrain. Very disruptive. We have noticed fewer deer, hardly any birds, fewer coyotes, and very few chipmunks the closer the construction was to our house. Coincidence? I don't think so. This same impact would touch the sacred Native ceremonies. This is not acceptable.
2. The cattle on the USFS land adjacent to us are more agitated than any prior year, in part, due to the construction disruption on Hwy 385. Coincidence? I don't think so. This would be predictable for the mining project, only worse, 24/7.
3. Water usage of the mining. We don't need more gold mined, we need water for our people. It is hard to imagine that the decision makers believe that planning a water pipe coming from the Missouri River is a solution to providing water for our population and yet allow mining to use astronomical amounts of water per day. Add into that the probable contamination by the tailings, it is unacceptable.
4. Spearfish Canyon is a high use national treasure scenic highway. Why would it still be an attraction with the loud noise, fumes, and destruction of the roads, and following trucks when trying to enjoy the scenic byway? Tourism gives our communities far more than what the mining would give us dollar wise. The miners do not add a significant dollar amount to our economy, yet take from our lands and resources.
5. Before making ANY decisions, the USFS must do a full EIS. No shortcuts.
6. USFS must give the full 60 day comment period, not 30 days. The stakes are too high to take shortcuts.