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Comments: I'm writing from Italy to oppose the Ponderosa Project that would devastate the beautiful and sacred Spearfish Canyon area through gold mining. I have visited the area many times over the years and have become very attached to it, feeling a much stronger connection to this canyon than any place in my home country. Please do not destroy its beauty and peacefulness with something so antiquated as gold mining. The community would never recover. The land would never recover. There would be consequences that would impact many generations to come a lot more than the immediate benefits of drilling for a resource that has no value compared to the health and well-being of the people who inhabit the land, the animals and VITAL natural resources such as water sources of the area. There are some things that are far more valuable than gold and profit. They are sacred and as human beings responsible for the future of our children we should understand and appreciate their value and sacredness. This project is a disaster and many people here in Italy are following this case closely, hoping it won't be approved. Me personally I really cannot bare the thought of another piece of sacred land being raped and violated for the profit of the same company behind the golden crest project. Please, I beg you even from across the ocean to remember- "only when the last tree has been cut down, the last fish caught, and the last stream poisoned, will the white man realize he cannot eat money".

Yours faithfully

Cecilia Huber