Data Submitted (UTC 11): 7/21/2025 4:34:10 AM
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Comments: I vehemently oppose any and all gold mining activities in Spearfish Canyon for a multitude of reasons. It is an absolute abomination that gold mining in Spearfish Canyon could even be an option, let alone, considered. Aren't National Forests supposed to be protected? There comes a time when what is morally right needs to supersede money, greed, and capital gain. And that time has come. The powers that be know in the depths of their soul allowing something like this is wrong. You are being faced with a moral dilemma and must make a very important decision.

Spearfish Creek and the water sources in the Spearfish Canyon serve a vital purpose to the ecosystem, the tourism industry, the way of life in the Canyon. There is a reason people come from all over the world to see Spearfish Canyon. It is a sacred, magical place. People flock here to connect to the earth, to see Mother Nature's beauty and wonder, to find solace and peace. The increased truck traffic on the roads, possible chemical contamination, loud drilling and blasting and whatever else comes with gold mining will kill all of those things. Animals will be displaced and move out. The amount of revenue tourists bring to the area would also be affected - who is going to want to spend their summer vacation in the belly of a destructive gold mine? Not many.

I've owned property in the Canyon for many years, not far from the project location, and my what WAS soon-to-be home site sits just below the Canyon rim. I can fish and provide food for myself out of Spearfish Creek and obtain my water via a high quality water well. This project risks destroying that way of life, destroying my water source, destroying everything I've worked so hard for. And I am not alone in that sentiment. There are currently many rockslides near my home site, how could extensive drilling and open pit mining not cause those to become worse, thus further destroying the ecosystem? The ground in that area is very unstable, filled with more rock than dirt so it is hard to believe that the watershed is not at risk of being affected. My home build was set to start this fall and now, well, who knows. Who wants to live right below a gold mine? Would you?

Take a look at the devastating scar left by the open pit mine in Lead. That land will never repair itself, the ecosystem is forever destroyed, and the land left unusable. Those people took what they wanted and left.

It is heartbreaking that Spearfish Canyon, a place near and dear to SO many, a place people instantly fall in love with, a place that carries such a spiritual meaning, is at risk of being forever harmed and destroyed. And all for what? Money. I highly urge you to deny this project. I am no scientist, but you know in your hearts the effect gold mining will have on the area. The only ones it will benefit are the pockets of those atrocious enough to want to do this in the first place. Just like in Lead, they will take what they came for and split, with no regard to the damage they are causing to the people and place.