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Comments: I oppose the Ponderosa Exploratory Drilling #64551 due to the ecological, human health, and cultural issues that it presents to the region. Being in the headwaters of Spearfish canyon and creek, this project poses unnecessary risks to the water in this region - both for drinking water purposes, recreation purposes, and ecological health concerns. Not only could exploring in this area harm water in this region, it also requires vast amounts of water to complete - water that should be conserved for humans and other beings who live in this area now and into the future, not a mining company. Being that the Black Hills as a whole is unceded land of the Ogeton, I also oppose this project as it is in direct opposition to the values of most tribal stakeholders, does not benefit tribal stakeholders, poses permanent damage to the land and water for future generations, and directly impacts a nearby tribal ceremonial site.

Additionally, the USFS should at the very least complete an Environmental Impact Statement for this project, given the fragile, unique, and pristine areas that this exploratory project is proposed in.

Please consider the interest of citizens, other beings, and the precious water of this region before allowing a mining company to extract unnecessary gold from our public lands.