Data Submitted (UTC 11): 7/22/2025 4:55:28 AM
First name: Rachel
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Organization:
Title:
Comments: I'm interested in this proposed project because it will further contaminate our water. Ecological services provided by the canyon are extremely rare, cherished, and irreplaceable. Gold is worthless compared to clean water. The cost of wastewater treatment will grow worse in coming years. As someone with a background in environmental engineering and focus on water systems, I fear for the current mining tailings already in existence, especially since older mines can take up to 50-100 years to finally seep down into aquifers deep underground. Organic topsoil is also a critical element mitigating both drought, flooding, wildfire, food for wildlife, and so much more. Mining also disturbs and wrecks havoc on sensitive mycorrhizal networks, which seed clouds and increase precipitation, preventing stressed out trees and supporting a forests ability to resist bark beetle infestations and be resilient to wildfires. We already have too great of a mess to clean up, and I can't imagine a future where this project will benefit anyone living in the Black Hills and beyond. There's so much left to save in this world, please reconsider why Ponderosa Drilling Project has any genuine meaning beyond creating capital for a few, while allowing for life to wither. I want the Forest Service to do an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for this project. Please extent the comment period by 60 days.