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Comments: I was born and raised in Rapid City, SD. The forest land of the Black Hills was specifically set aside for preservation of homes of other animal, vegetable and mineral - as preservation from our piggish (sorry Pigs) selves. I have witnessed over more than 70 years the effects of the erosion and impingement by man on the Black Hills. I have lived in several areas of the U. S. as an adult; and worked as a residential real estate appraiser, having obtained an SRA. Having lived elsewhere with vastly higher populations, I lived in and my work chronicled the strain on land from the one species that refuses to control itself in accordance to what the laws of Nature will allow. Despite having the knowledge of damage from over-population.

There is a switch-back place on the road to Sylvan Lake where the CCC installed a spring-fed fountain in a stone retaining wall. We used to stop and refresh ourselves with ice cold water on family outings. Some 3 or 4 decades ago that fountain was shut off. Ground water in the area was contaminated by giardia from cattle grazing, which seeped down and contaminated the spring water. Some 10 to 15 years ago, Keystone, SD permitted exploratory drilling around the Holy Terror Mine. In very short time the town of Keystone discovered drilling toxins had seeped into the aquifer that is the water source for town residents. The exploratory drilling was immediately shut down.

Craven Canyon was listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1993. I have had the fortune to be on a hike into Craven Canyon lead by specialists to view and learn of these petroglyphs and pictographs. They are remnants of past cultures communicating life, beliefs, art, values, history. This area is also part of the entire Black Hills which by treaty in 1868 was given to the Native American cultures. Their communities, by legal rights, have access to the lands for their own cultural practices. Even the process of exploratory drilling will ravage the lands surrounding the canyon. The mining people who will come into that area will undoubtedly further desecrate this limited remains and resource of cultures past. It is proven over and over that exploratory drilling injects toxins into the land that will seep down through and away from the exploratory area soils. The entire area is populated with ranches, homes, and towns with residents who would be left to deal with a water source that is no longer healthy for life. Experience tells us that treatments, if any, are too little and too late. Corporations prove over and over they will not, and perhaps can not, take adequate responsibility to protect the resources they plunder. Please say no to exploratory mining for uranium around Craven Canyon.