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First name: Jennifer

Last name: Johnson

Organization:

Title:

Comments: Subject: Public Comment - Opposition to the Bull Hill Mine / Bear Lodge Rare Earth Project
Dear Forest Service Officials, I am writing to express my strong opposition to the proposed open-pit rare earth mine on National Forest System land just outside Sundance. Our community cherishes this landscape for its unmatched natural beauty and quiet solitude. We use these public lands year-round for hiking, fishing, camping, hunting, snowmobiling, snowshoeing, and biking. Putting an industrial open-pit mine here will destroy the local ecosystem, displace wildlife, and introduce severe noise and light pollution into a peaceful area known for its trails and campgrounds. Standing atop Warren Peak and looking down at an industrial open-pit scar would be heartbreaking. We have all seen what massive open-pit mining operations like the Wharf mine have done to parts of the northern Black Hills. We do not want that industrial footprint and visual blight brought to our backyard in the Bear Lodge mountains. Once this landscape is torn up for minerals, the damage to our quiet recreation and local environment cannot be undone. I urge the Forest Service to fully consider these long-term environmental and recreational costs and reject this destructive mining project. Sincerely, Jennifer Johnson