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Organization:

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Comments: July 21, 2026Mr. Shawn CochranBlack Hills National Forest Supervisor1019 N. 5th StreetCuster, SD 57730Re: Bear Lodge Mining Project, haul road, strong opposition to Miller Creek Road Dear Supervisor Cochran,As a landowner in Crook County with a family ranch of a little less than 500 acres, the north edge of which borders Miller Creek Road, and as stewards of a Wyoming State School Section that also borders Miller Creek Road, and as the wife of 26 years of Mark Lambert, who devoted decades of his life working for the Bearlodge District of the Black Hills National Forest, I am writing to express my strong opposition to using Miller Creek Road as a haul road for the Bear Lodge Mining Project, operated by Rare Element Resources (RER).RER states that "the mine site is ideally located in northeastern Wyoming, just off of 1-90, and has easy access to power and supporting infrastructure." The Warren Peak Road route would provide this access. The Miller Creek route does not. Miller Creek would require a 13-mile access, 12-foot lanes and 4-foot shoulders. The total right-of-way for the access route would be 80 feet. Mining traffic is estimated between 13 to 17 round trips of semi-trucks. This would be heartbreaking to my family and all the families who live along this route, especially when a more viable option exists.It is my hope that RER will abide by the recommendation of the Crook County Road Department, that the Warren Peak route should be used for numerous reasons as outlined in the Superintendent Morgan Ellsbury's letter of July 2, 2025, which includes the fact that Warren Peak Road was built by the Department of Defense to provide quicker access to 1-90 and to support heavy-traffic.RER also states that they will adhere to all U.S. environmental regulations. As a landowner, I am also extremely concerned about the impact on the water table, ponds, wells, and streams. The previous EIS was drafted in 2015, I believe, a year when according to NOAA Crook County received significant amounts of rain and snowfall. In January of 2016, the Bear Lodge Project Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) was suspended and a notice sent to the EPA withdrawing the DEIS and suspending the 45-day comment period. RER estimates that up to 74 gallons per minute of water will be required. This year, 2026, the Wyoming drought is exceptionally severe statewide. According to the U.S. Forest Service, there is an Intent to Prepare the EIS by July 29, 2026, with Public Scoping to identify significant environmental issues. The final EIS availability, public review, and record of decision target date is November 16, 2027. Will the environmental impact of the haul road crossing private land regardless of private property rights be a major consideration in the drafting of the EIS? An important sidenote: While researching both Miller Creek and Warren Peak as optional locations for haul roads, I began to wonder if RER was a Wyoming-owned company. I discovered that RER's major shareholder is General Atomics Uranium Resources. General Atomics, located in San Diego, California, owns 71.5 percent of RER. The CEO, James Neal Blue (net worth 5.50 billion dollars), has steered General Atomics global growth since acquiring it in 1986. The company's PFIC statement and tax notice to its U.S. Shareholders states that "Rare Element Resources Ltd, a non-U.S. entity, expects to be considered a Passive Foreign Investment Company ("PFIC") as defined in Section 1297(a) of the US Internal Revenue Code."I like to believe that when RER's CEO Ken Mushinski, as well as General Atomic's CEO James Blue, truly understand the devastating impact the Miller Creek route would have on the landowners, ranchers, homeowners, and families, they will no longer consider the Miller Creek Road route a viable haul road but will, instead, move forward with preparing Warren Peak Road for this purpose.With sincere appreciation for your time and thoughtfulness,Page LambertCrook County Landowner