

# E Heyward

I am concerned that the proposed Brook Mine will cause more harm than good to our community. While established coal mines are struggling to survive, ranching and recreation in the permit area increase in importance.

Two popular walk-in areas are within or adjacent to the permit boundary. I believe WIA 1 encompasses approximately 1,865 acres and WIA 6 encompasses approximately 400 acres. These WIAs abut public lands that provide additional hunting and recreational opportunities. If walk-in areas within the permit boundary are closed and unavailable to the public, how they will be replaced?

The Kleenburn Recreation Area and other areas adjacent to the permit boundary are frequent favorites for family picnicking, dog walking and fishing along Tongue River and Goose Creek. I am concerned that areas outside the permit area will be impacted; many of us use these areas year round. I'd like to know in detail how the areas will be protected in the permit, and that blasting and mining activity will not impact these recreation areas.

The permit incorrectly states that Sheridan County's Comprehensive Plan designates heavy industry to be near Acme, and that the location of the permit area meets the requirements of Sheridan County's future land use plan and goals. The county plan has designated two sites for heavy industry, neither in that area; both are directly east of town off E. 5th Street. The County planning office(675-2420)has offered to discuss and correct misunderstandings if contacted by DEQ.

Finally, please conduct a public hearing to address these concerns and to hear from the impacted public. Thank you.