

Mark Stengle

I am opposed to the Bentonite Mine close to Pine Haven and Keyhole State Park for the following reasons.

The proximity to the Belle Fourche River watershed and the tributaries that drain into the river which flows right past Devils Tower National Monument. Any overburden or sludge caused by mining operations could effect the National Forest and cause environmental issues in the Wyoming Black Hills and at the Monument.

Traffic congestion on Old Sundance Road and Pine Ridge Road. Both of these roads are narrow two lane roads with no County or State Maintenance and they are also school bus routes with frequent stops. The added heavy equipment traffic traveling from the proposed minesite to the plant would be overwhelming especially when the State Park is in full swing.

Many of the residents in this area bought land to live in the Wyoming Black Hills close to Keyhole State Park, not mining operations. We could have bought land close to Rawhide or Black Thunder mines if that was our desire. This is akin to a rendering plant in Jackson or a plastic recycling facility in Story. We have driven on Wagner Road and see what the additional equipment traffic would do along with the dust, noise, and exhaust which would degrade the environment of what is intended to be a Summer Vacation and semi retirement community and area. Please realize this is NOT a good location for Bentonite Mining Operations.