



**EARTHWORKS**

June 2, 2023

Bryan Karchut  
Acting Forest Supervisor  
Black Hills National Forest  
2029 North 5<sup>th</sup> Street  
Custer, SD 57730

Dear Forest Service Supervisor,

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the proposed mineral withdrawal for the Pactola Reservoir–Rapid Creek Watershed in South Dakota.

Please see the attached 5,489 comments in support of the proposal to protect 20,574 acres of National Forest lands in the Black Hills from mineral entry for the next 20 years to protect the cultural and natural resources of the Pactola Reservoir–Rapid Creek Watershed, including municipal water for Rapid City and Ellsworth Air Force Base.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Bonnie Gestring  
Northwest Program Director  
Earthworks  
[bgestring@earthworks.org](mailto:bgestring@earthworks.org)

*Dedicated to protecting communities and the environment from the adverse impacts of mineral and energy development while promoting sustainable solutions.*

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