

October 17, 2024

So Whom it may Concern,

I fully support the mineral Claims withdrawal for the proposed 20,574 acres and would like to see it expanded to cover the entire 198,000 acres of watershed.

Because this area is critical for storage and generation of drinking water for Rapid City, Ellsworth Air Force Base and Western South Dakota it should be protected from exploration and mining to ensure drinking water supply is protected.

Our family has been coming to the Black Hills since 1959 when I was a child. My parents both fished and I have stayed living here off and on since 1980. My grandson now enjoys fishing at the age of 11. We have hiked, hiked, run marathons in the hills and thoroughly enjoyed its splendid beauty, which a gift to be protected.

Sincerely,
Elizabeth Bryan Rhode



RAPID CITY SD 577

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Shawn Cochran, Forest Supervisor
1019 N. 5th Street
Custer
South Dakota, 57730

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