

**ROSEBUD SIOUX TRIBE  
RESOLUTION NO. 2024-107**

resources of the land. This application is known as a Mineral Withdrawal Application; and

**WHEREAS,** the area of the Pactola Reservoir-Rapid Creek Watershed included in the Mineral Withdrawal Application is the municipal water source for Rapid City and Ellsworth Air Force Base; and

**WHEREAS,** the area of the Pactola Reservoir-Rapid Creek Watershed, including not only the Pactola Reservoir but also the numerous tributary creeks, drainages, and streams that feed into and recharge it, constitutes an area of approximately 198,000 acres in total. So although the scope of the current Mineral Withdrawal Application of 20,574 acres is a meaningful start, it is inadequate to serve its stated purpose of protecting these critical water sources and should be expanded to include the entire 198,000 acres of watershed; and

**WHEREAS,** approval of the Mineral Withdrawal Application is essential to uphold unbroken treaty rights, honor the constitutional and treaty-bound nation-to-nation relationship between the Rosebud Sioux Tribe and the United States, and prevent the destruction and exploitation of our unabrogated treaty lands; and

**WHEREAS,** approval of the Mineral Withdrawal Application also safeguards crucial Lakota cultural and sacred sites in the affected area, preserving the free exercise of our religion in the He Sapa, the site of our most sacred ceremonies and practices; and

**WHEREAS,** the immediacy of the potential harm to the water, air, and land in He Sapa requires that this Mineral Withdrawal Application undergo only the Environmental Assessment (EA) review process required by the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), followed by an immediate Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) once the EA is complete, because the failure to act now will result in irreparable harm to the land, water, and way of life on which we all depend; and

**WHEREAS,** The Rosebud Sioux Tribe, as a successor tribe to the treaties, demands that the United States honor and uphold its treaty obligations to the Sioux Nation with respect to the Black Hills and protection of its water and cultural resources; now

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED,** that the Rosebud Sioux Tribe urges immediate approval of the U.S. Forest Service's proposed Mineral Withdrawal Application of the Pactola Reservoir-Rapid Creek Watershed in the Black Hills of South Dakota; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED,** that the Rosebud Sioux Tribe further requests the area of the mineral withdrawal be extended to encompass the remaining 90% of the Rapid Creek Watershed area, and the entirety of the Black Hills National Forest; and

**BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED,** that the President of Rosebud Sioux Tribe or his authorized delegate are authorized to sign documents necessary to execute the resolution hereby approved.

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**WHEREAS,** the area of the Pactola Reservoir-Rapid Creek Watershed, including not only the Pactola Reservoir but also the numerous tributary creeks, drainages, and streams that feed into and recharge it, constitutes an area of approximately 198,000 acres in total. So although the scope of the current Mineral Withdrawal Application of 20,574 acres is a meaningful start, it is inadequate to serve its stated purpose of protecting these critical water sources and should be expanded to include the entire 198,000 acres of watershed; and

**WHEREAS,** approval of the Mineral Withdrawal Application is essential to uphold unbroken treaty rights, honor the constitutional and treaty-bound nation-to-nation relationship between the Rosebud Sioux Tribe and the United States, and prevent the destruction and exploitation of our unabrogated treaty lands; and

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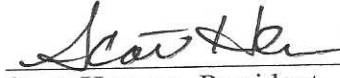
**CERTIFICATION**

This is to certify that the above Resolution No. 2024-107 was duly passed by the Rosebud Sioux Tribal Council in session on April 30, 2024 by a vote of thirteen (13) in favor, zero (0) opposed and zero (0) not voting. The said resolution was adopted pursuant to authority vested in the Council. A quorum was present.

ATTEST:



Nicole Marshall, Secretary  
Rosebud Sioux Tribe



Scott Herman, President  
Rosebud Sioux Tribe