

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 5/17/2023 9:03:06 PM

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Organization:

Title:

Comments: I support the proposed withdrawal of public lands in the Rapid Creek watershed from mineral development.

I urge the Forest Service to expand the scope of the withdrawal to include a greater area than just the Rapid Creek watershed. The entire Black Hills should be removed from mineral development.

There are no crucial/unique national security resources in the Black Hills that demand development. In fact, keeping the land undeveloped and the waterways free from inevitable mining-related pollution is crucial to the economic survival of the region and the entire state. It is not 1880. Today, the driver of the economy is tourism and outdoor recreation. According to the state of South Dakota, visitors to the Black Hills spent \$1.8 billion, supporting 20,000+ jobs. One in ten jobs in the region depends on tourism. And all of this economic activity drives the revenue base for local government.