

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 10/17/2024 6:00:00 AM

First name: Jeffrey

Last name: Olson

Organization: Black Hills FlyFishers

Title: CO-President

Comments: USDA Forest Service (USFS)

Re: Comments on draft EA for the Pactola Reservoir-Rapid Creek Watershed Withdrawal

On behalf of the Black Hill FlyFishers, a conservation non-profit of 350 members located in the Black Hills. We strongly support the Secretary of the Interior's proposal to withdraw the entire Pactola-Rapid Creek Watershed from all forms of entry, appropriation, and disposal under public land laws; location, entry, and patent under the mining laws; and operation of the mineral leasing and geothermal leasing laws, subject to valid existing rights, for a term of 20 years.

In addition to the proposed 20,574 acres, we respectfully request that the withdrawal also include the entire range drainage, encompassing Deerfield Lake and its tributaries. Clean, clear water is important for our local communities, the sustainability of Ellsworth Air Force Base, and the preservation of critical wild life habitats, including those vital to fish and biodiversity.

Thank for considering this important request.

Sincerely

Jeff Olson Co-president

The Black Hills FlyFishers