

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 8/22/2022 6:00:00 AM

First name: Rebecca

Last name: Terk

Organization:

Title:

Comments: As a downstream resident, I want to register my objection to the FONSI for F3 Jenny Gulch Exploration and restate my previous concerns voiced in my initial letter on this project submitted 10-21-21.

The interplay between the waters of Rapid Creek and the Minnelusa Aquifer, flowing from Pactola means that contamination of the surface waters of Pactola Reservoir, upstream tributaries, and/or Rapid Creek, including by exploration and mining-related activities such as those proposed in this Project EA creates an unacceptable contamination risk for my water supply, as well as that which supplies other residents of the larger community of Rapid City.

In recent weeks, both the City of Rapid City and the Pennington County Commission have expressed concerns and clear objections to the development of this project. Not only does exploration and mining in the upper watershed threaten our water supply, it also threatens habitat for threatened and endangered species, [threatens] recreation opportunities for both locals and visitors, and [threatens] the very character of our communities in the Central Hills.

Further, the Project EA fails to account for the fact that the BHNH Forest Plan is currently under revision (and is long overdue for that revision), and elements of that planning process may seriously conflict with the Project.

FS FONSI relies on outdated NEPA provisions established under the former presidential administration rather than current requirements.

Lastly, Project EA indicates that Tribal Historic Preservation Officers have received only a letter and invitation to comment, which does not in any way fulfill the need for Consultation or a comprehensive cultural survey of the site.