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First name: David

Last name: Hanna

Organization: Black Hills FlyFishers

Title: President

Comments: The Black Hills FlyFishers fully endorses protection of the natural cold water resource that is the Rapid Creek Watershed (RCW). Mining can be done responsibly, we know that. When it comes to the Rapid Creek Watershed we believe there is too much at stake to not mitigate risk of contamination and permanent harm to this area of the Black Hills. We feel this proposal will do some of that mitigation. There are over 100,000 people (1/8th of South Dakota) that rely on this watershed for potable water. Plus, Ellsworth Air Force Base could be materially impacted by a RCW contamination event.

Please do not forget the mining contamination impact of Whitewood Creek (Lead/Deadwood area of South Dakota) - an EPA Superfund site declared in the 80s / 90s.

We hope this proposal will be accepted and become a portion of the conservation and protection efforts of cold water resources in the Black Hills.

Thank you!