

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 4/3/2023 4:38:51 PM

First name: Martell

Last name: Hesketh

Organization:

Title:

Comments: I am writing to express my approval of the proposed mineral withdrawal in and around the Rapid Creek watershed in the Black Hills region of South Dakota that was recently announced by the Forest Service. This watershed not only serves as the drinking water source for easily 100,000 people upstream and downstream of Rapid Creek and therefore should be protected for future generations. Additionally, the mining projects being proposed by F3 Gold and other companies would further harm the Indigenous nations who explicitly hold treaty rights to this land.

Passing this proposal is a tremendous opportunity to work towards a more environmentally just solution that honors treaty rights and the well-being of the thousands of people downstream from the watershed.

In summary, I fully support passing this proposal and withdrawing all mineral rights in the Rapid Creek Watershed immediately for the protection of the land and the people who depend on it.