Data Submitted (UTC 11): 4/3/2023 4:47:10 PM First name: Paul Last name: Dearhouse Organization: Title: Comments: To whom it may concern:

I am writing you to express support to approve the proposal, so that no mining can happen in the proposal area under Pactola Reservoir-Rapid Creek Watershed Withdrawal #NP-3479. The Black Hills are illegally occupied treaty land, therefore any claims to mining rights anywhere in this region were never legitimate in the first place.

Some reasons are that so many people depend on the drinking water provided by the Rapid Creek Watershed. Mining can pollute watersheds with cyanide, arsenic, uranium, mercury, and other toxic chemicals. The cultural resources we will lose if these mining projects are allowed to continue can never be recovered.

I request that you pass the proposal and withdraw all mineral rights in the Rapid Creek Watershed immediately.

Thank you, Paul Dearhouse