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First name: Jordan

Last name: Brien

Organization:

Title:

Comments: Pactola withdrawal comment notes

We APPROVE of the proposal, we want it to pass. It will result in the withdrawal of federal mineral rights, meaning no mining can happen in the proposal area.

The entire Black Hills are illegally occupied treaty land, therefore any claims to mining rights anywhere in this region were never legitimate in the first place. The Supreme Court also ruled this in 1980.

100,000 people depend on the drinking water provided by the Rapid Creek Watershed, both upstream and downstream of the Pactola reservoir.

Mining and the processing of the raw materials it extracts pollute watersheds with cyanide, arsenic, uranium, mercury, and a host of other toxic "forever" chemicals.

This is the spiritual and ancestral home of Oceti Sakowin peoples along with nearly 2 dozen other tribes, and the cultural resources we will lose if these mining projects are allowed to continue can never be recovered.

Pass the proposal and withdraw all mineral rights in the Rapid Creek Watershed immediately.