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First name: Richard Last name: Bell Organization:

Title:

Comments: This proposal to protect the Pactola Reservoir - Rapid Creek Watershed from the effects of mineral exploration and development is extremely critical to both residents and visitors of this area, of which I am one. The Rapid Creek watershed is the drinking water source for both Rapid City and Ellsworth Air Force base and is important resource for recreation, wildlife and fish which deserves to be protected. Although this "withdrawal" would only remove about 20,000 acres from the threat of mining pollution and is limited in time (20 years), it's an important to begin this protection of an area that is sorely needed for the reasons listed above. I appreciate your efforts to insure such protection.