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Organization:
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Comments: Please approve the withdrawal of the ~20,574 acres of lands administered by the Black Hills National Forest Service in Pennington County, South Dakota.

The purpose of the requested withdrawal is to protect and preserve cultural and natural resources of the Pactola Reservoir - Rapid Creek Watershed, including municipal water for Rapid City and Ellsworth Air Force Base, from the known and potential adverse environmental impacts that may arise from exploration and development of federally owned minerals. If the Secretary of the Interior were to grant the withdrawal, no new mining claims or issuance of new mineral or geothermal leases would be authorized on the withdrawn lands for a term of 20 years.

With the climate change disasters we have experienced, we need to do a better job of preserving our natural lands, especially those involving critical watersheds.

Our government agencies need to do a better job protecting our natural resources, and ensuring the safety and health of our wildlife and federally protected public lands.