Data Submitted (UTC 11): 5/1/2023 8:04:37 PM First name: Richard Last name: Emerson Organization:

Title:

Comments: I attended the BLM-NFS presentation at the Ramkota in Rapid City on April 26, 2023. Thank you for visiting, sharing the formal process, and letting folks speak. I do support the withdrawal. I also believe the requested withdrawal area needs to be expanded to encompass the Rapid Creek headwaters upstream and, likely, surface drainage downstream that provide stream flow and aquifer recharging. Points mentioned in comments: clean water is paramount, recreation is both a tourist and local draw, and there are already numerous lode and placer claims in the Upper Rapid Creek Watershed. Rapid City and the surrounding Hills are growing. Having safe, sustainable water supplies are key to the Black Hills success - and our health. A Rapid City resident since 1991, I see the effects of mining - good and otherwise. Additional exploration and mining in the Rapid Creek Watershed does not make any common sense. Thank you for the opportunity to provide input.