Data Submitted (UTC 11): 5/18/2023 9:19:07 PM
First name: Marie
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Organization:
Title:
Comments: To the USDA Forest Service,

I am writing in support of withdrawal of the Pactola Reservoir - Rapid Creek Watershed from all forms of entry, appropriation, and disposal.

The history of mining in the Black Hills shows a significant environmental impact. The polluters have a clear history of destroying our environment, air and water while exploiting and profiting from natural resources that belong to us all. Indeed, over the past seven decades, miners in the Black Hills have left cleanup to oversight agencies, creating four separate toxic Superfund sites - polluted locations that require long-term response to clean up contamination from hazardous materials including arsenic, mercury, and cyanide.

About $100 million of public money has already been spent to try and fix just one of those sites!

That does not even include health care costs of people who have suffered health consequences from all the contamination and their children and future generations.

The Pactola Reservoir - Rapid Creek Watershed is of particular concern because it supplies the municipal water for Rapid City and Ellsworth Air Force Base.

The Black Hills should not be open to mining or geothermal energy in the first place. This is Lakota land, stolen by the U.S. government in violation of multiple treaties, as confirmed by the U.S. Supreme Court in 1980.

It is shameful to be heading toward collapse in a similar manner and for similar reasons as past failed societies that we have been taught to look down on. Indeed, environmental damage can be a contributing factor influencing collapse, and the society's response to its environmental problems always proves significant (Diamond, J. (2011). Collapse. Penguin Books.).

Sincerely,
Marie Kube, Ph.D.