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Comments: Hello, I am of resident of Alaska who strongly supports the Pactola area mineral withdrawal.

The Black Hills contain nine distinct watersheds, as well as eleven reservoirs. In an experiment, water pollution specialists reported it takes only thirty minutes for contaminants to travel forty miles by water; roughly the distance from Pactola to Rapid City. The development of this region would result in an indefinite amount of pollutants being released into the drinking supply of thousands. Levels of selenium, a chemical contained in petroleum and mining tailings, have increased in drinking water since 2012.

I support the expansion of the mineral withdrawal to the entire Rapid Creek watershed. This would ensure access to clean water for all residents of the region. The carbon lock in and pollution from mining development would permanently disrupt any meaningful attempts at maintaining drinkable water.