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Comments: I am in favor of the proposed Pactola Reservoir-Rapid Creek Watershed Withdrawal #NP-3479. This is an extremely important measure to insure the water source for Rapid City, SD and Ellsworth Air force base. Each year the population of this area grows by the thousands and more will come with the expansion of Ellsworth Air force base. Clean potable water is essential for life; it is not to be given to the profits of (mostly foreign based) mining companies.

Pactola Reservoir is also a major recreation center for the central Black Hills and surrounding areas. A mining violation regarding poisoning the waters of this valuable economic resource would be devastating to say the least. I personally paddle and recreate in the Pactola Reservoir-Rapid Creek Watershed.

With the nature of this proposal an EA seems the most reasonable route to proceed with.