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Comments: Dear Sirs,

Overall, I'm in favor of the Forest Service's proposed withdrawal of the Pactola Reservoir-Rapid Creek Watershed (#NP-3479). However, I would say there are two things about this proposed withdrawal that need to be changed:

1.) This is too small an area. If approved, the requested action would withdraw only about 20,574 acres of National Forest System lands in the Pactola Reservoir - Rapid Creek Watershed in Pennington County, South Dakota. It's good that it would effectively withdraw this small area from settlement, sale, location or entry under the public land laws, as well as location and entry under the United States mining laws, and leasing under the mineral leasing and geothermal leasing laws. However, it's just too small an area. The whole Rapid Creek watershed area needs to be protected, including this small area in the "bullseye," but what about all the upstream and downstream areas as well? If mining was to occur upstream and there was an inevitable problem (such as a cyanide leak which often accompanies gold mining here in the Black Hills), then the Rapid Creek would be severely and negatively affected and the withdrawal of this small area would not be able to protect.

2.) The proposed withdrawal would be good for up to 20 years, subject to valid existing rights. It's a good start, but it's not long enough. Therefore, this area (plus an even larger area as noted above) needs to be permanently withdrawn - our future depends upon this!

We rely on clean water for Tourism and agricultural - the two biggest economic drivers in this area, but the whole area upstream and downstream of Pactola Reservoir need protection too. There are also many cultural resources in the area that need to be protected, outside of the small 20k acres being proposed.

I appreciate the efforts which the FS has embarked upon to address this issue, but I would advise you to think bigger and longer.

Thank you!