

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 6/8/2023 1:09:58 PM

First name: Syd

Last name: De Vries

Organization:

Title:

Comments: I am opposed to the proposed Pactola Watershed mineral withdrawal.

I believe that efforts to remove mineral rights from Federal lands present an existential threat to our nation's national security. Minerals that are critical to the development of new technologies as well as those that are used in defense equipment are being obtained from countries such as China and Russia which are hostile to the United States. This is unacceptable.

Mining and outdoor recreation can coexist together. Despite the sins of the past committed by many mining company's reckless approach to environmental stewardship, vast improvements have been made by mining companies towards minimizing the environmental impact from mining operations. Today, it is recognized by mining companies that environmental stewardship is good for business which is the ultimate driver for environmental performance.