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Comments: I strongly support the Mineral Withdrawl project for the Pactola Reservoir area and upper Rapid Creek.

This area is a major source of tourism and recreational use. Protection for the beauty of the area and water quality is a significant step to support and emphasize the large numbers of recreational users and the large economic impact they have on Black Hills communities. The proposal is an important first step to mitigate the negative impacts of mineral extraction that the Hills have already experienced. These impacts include the obvious multiple negative environmental effects along with the economic cost of exchanging a relatively few mining jobs for widespread economic and job losses among businesses that benefit from the recreational local and visitor users.

I would also like to encourage the NFS and Black Hills National Forest to consider additional areas for mineral extraction protection. An area for consideration should be the area on the west side of Spearfish Canyon that would be impacted by the Golden Crest Project currently under discussion.