

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 6/8/2023 11:58:24 PM

First name: Jennifer

Last name: Dick

Organization:

Title:

Comments: Dear USDA Forest Service,

I am writing in support of the withdrawal from the Pactola area, as well as supporting expanding the area covered by the withdrawal to include all federal lands in the Black Hills.

Morally, it's the correct thing to do as this area includes sacred sites to the Lakota, and given the history of how our government and leaders have treated them in the past, protecting these areas is the least we can do to try to make right the legacies of both genocide and rampant treaty-breaking.

It also benefits everyone to have more land protected from dangerous and dirty extraction practices, and instead be allowed to heal. This would help reduce pollution, protect wildlife, and keep water safe.

I urge you to perform an environmental assessment (EA) to see exactly what harmful impacts continuing mineral extraction has had and would continue to have on this land and the residents of the surrounding areas. Once that's been done, I urge for a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) when the EA has been completed.

We are seeing the results of climate change increase in severity year after year. For the good of everyone, I urge you to withdraw the Pactola Reservoir and associated areas from settlement, sale, location or entry under the public land laws, etc.

Sincerely,  
Jennifer Dick