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Organization:

Title:

Comments: As a retired licensed, professional geologist, I request the Forest Service to say YES to the Pactola Reservoir-Rapid Creek Watershed Withdrawal. I know the damage mining would do to these lands that are sacred to the Lakota People.

I believe the appropriate next step is to complete the an Environmental Assessment (EA). Additionally, I believe that the completion of the EA will indicate a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) is the correct result.

Based on my work experience, I believe there are a number of reasons supporting the need for the Withdrawal. Mining would damage the ecosystem and in particular, the water. Hard rock mining uses a variety of chemicals that would remain in the water. Mining would also restrict the use of the land for recreational purposes and lastly (as already mentioned), this land is sacred to the Lakota People.

Please do the right thing and say Yes to the Pactola Reservoir-Rapid Creek Watershed Withdrawal.