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Organization:

Title:

Comments: I am writing in full support of mineral withdrawal of the proposed area around Pactola Reservoir and upper Rapid Creek

I am requesting that the USDA Forest Service conduct an Environmental Assessment (EA) as well as a Finding of NO Significant Impact (FONSI) of the area proposed for mineral withdrawal as well as the entire Rapid Creek Watershed footprint.

I am requesting inclusion of the entire watershed footprint as with the increasing climate crisis, water has become a resource of extraordinary concern, especially in the West, and protecting the watershed and the land that filters the water in that watershed is of critical importance.

In addition, the Black Hills are sacred lands and The Lakota peoples have a right to protect and preserve their sacred lands. The USDA Forest Service, in its deliberations, should give a great deal of weight to Indigenous requests for the withdrawal inclusion of all federal Black Hills lands. This is an opportunity to recognize the "Give Back" movement and its importance in protecting and conserving these environmentally and culturally important landscapes for the benefit of all.