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First name: Julie

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Organization:

Title:

Comments: I am writing to express my support for 20,574 acres of National Forest System lands in the Pactola Reservoir - Rapid Creek Watershed in Pennington County, South Dakota be withdrawn from settlement, sale, location or entry under the public land laws, location and entry under the United States mining laws, and leasing under the mineral leasing and geothermal leasing laws, subject to valid existing rights, for up to 20 years, preferably forever. Additionally, I also support expanding the area covered by the withdrawal to include all federal lands in the Black Hills. These lands, sacred to Native people, are vital in providing clean water to both Native and non-Native communities.

I request that you do an Environmental Assessment (EA) and that the result is a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) when the EA has been completed. It seems quite obvious that once the minors are forced to withdraw, there will no longer be any significant impact to the land.

I believe it is crucial to protect this land from the ravages of mining (mining causes very significant harm to the land and the water - just look at any place it's been done). It is vital that we protect the water for so many communities and that we keep it free from toxins. Life can't exist without clean water.

I also believe that we need to respect that these lands are sacred to the Lakota people.

I urge you to support the withdrawal of all mining from these lands and all of the lands in the Black Hills.

Thank you for considering my views.