Data Submitted (UTC 11): 6/9/2023 11:33:52 AM

First name: Adelheid Last name: Koepfer Organization:

Title:

Comments:

Support for the proposed #NP-3479 Withdrawal!

Thank you for taking public comment on the proposed withdrawal from the Pactola Reservoir-Rapid Creek Watershed. This area includes sacred land of the Lakota people and provides essential ecosystem services, most importantly clean and pristine freshwater for anyone downstream which is becoming such a rare public resource. Please keep this watershed free from mining and other polluting extractive activities!

I explicitly ask that you

- Provide an Environmental Assessment
- Provide a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) when the EA has been completed
- Expand the area covered by the withdrawal to include all federal lands in the Black Hills

The Pactola Reservoir - Rapid Creek Watershed in Pennington County, South Dakota is too valuable a natural resource to be put at risk by for-profit companies who will neither be willing nor able to reliably prevent, or at least clean up pollution we have seen from extractive activities in other places. It's never a question if "if", only "when" spills will happen.

Spiritual nourishment for indigenous people, recreation for all, but most importantly the water we all need...please keep them safe!