

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 6/9/2023 1:42:07 PM

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Comments: I would like the Forest Service to say YES to the Pactola Reservoir-Rapid Creek Watershed Withdrawal, and I also support expanding the area covered by the withdrawal to include all federal lands in the Black Hills. These lands are sacred to the original historic inhabitants, from whom they were stolen. Also, the watershed nourishes many downstream communities, both Native and non-Native, with clean water. Because of this, these lands should be protected from development and exploitation forever.

I hope the Forest Service will do an Environmental Assessment with a finding of No Significant Impact when the EA has been completed. Clean water is a no-brainer; the reservoir and watershed must be protected from contamination by mining operations. And respecting the rights of this land's original occupants is just plain decent and the right thing to do.

Thanks for your time and attention!

George Hasapidis