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Organization:

Title:

Comments: I am writing to request that the USDA Forest Service say YES to the Pactola Reservoir-Rapid Creek Watershed Withdrawal. Thank you so much for initiating this withdrawal.

I support the mineral withdrawal because it is vital - especially in these times of increasing threats to clean water across the US - to protect Jenny Gulch, the Pactola Reservoir, and the Rapid Creek watershed in South Dakota. This water must be kept clean and free of toxic pollutants for the sake of the Native and non-Native communities who depend up it. Furthermore, I believe that we must respect the culture and the sacred lands of the Lakota People, and preserve the site for recreation and for the healing properties that natural, pristine environments bring to all who visit them.

In addition to the withdrawal, I would like the Forest Service to do an Environmental Assessment (an EA, not an EISA), and a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) when the EA has been completed. There will, in fact, be no significant impact to the land once the miners are forced to withdraw, and an EA strengthens the case for a withdrawal.

Lastly, I hope that the Forest Service will also expand the withdrawal to include all federal lands in the Black Hills, for the benefit of the Native and non-Native communities in the area, and for the well being of all who may want to visit these beautiful lands.