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Comments: I ask Forest Service to say YES to the Pactola Reservoir-Rapid Creek Watershed Withdrawal and to do an Environmental Assessment (EA).

I ask for a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) when the EA has been completed. This may seem counterintuitive, but there will, in fact, be no significant impact to the land once the miners are forced to withdraw!

This is absolutely necessary to save water quality and cultural values, such as keeping the water free of toxic pollutants, respecting the sacred lands of the Lakota People, and preserving the site for recreation.

Here are two other important notes to keep in mind. First, we are NOT asking for a full Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). Instead we want an EA, which is a much faster process.

I urge you to respect and protect Native rights, Native Land and Indigenous peoples.