

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 6/10/2023 2:30:26 PM

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Organization:

Title:

Comments: U.S. Forrest Service: I support the Pactola area mineral withdrawal!

I encourage you to say you also support expanding the area covered by the withdrawal to include all federal lands in the Black Hills. These sacred lands, which nourish so many Native and non-Native communities downstream with clean water, should be preserved and pristine forever.

First, we are NOT asking for a full Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). Instead we want an EA and FONSI now, which is a much faster process.

The following are the most important:

I want the Forest Service to say YES to the Pactola Reservoir-Rapid Creek Watershed Withdrawal.

I ask the Forest Service 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!

The primary reasons for my support of the mineral withdrawal are the following :

To focus on 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.