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Organization:

Title:

Comments:

Dear Sir/Ms: I support the US Forest Service & Bureau of Land Management's (BLM) proposed withdrawal of mineral claims which would prohibit most new mineral claims, exploration, and mining on 20,574 acres in the Pactola Reservoir area of the Rapid Creek Watershed. Please also consider an expansion/additional withdrawal: UPSTREAM from Pactola to protect tributaries that supply water to the Reservoir (as well as cultural & natural resources in those areas)

DOWNSTREAM from Pactola to protect aquifers that Rapid Creek flows into (as well as cultural & natural resources in those areas)

IDEALLY, please protect the entire Rapid Creek Watershed as the best way to protect surface & groundwater that Rapid City, Ellsworth Air Force Base, and surrounding communities rely on.

We often visit the Black Hills Area and hike and fish in the Rapid Creek Watershed. It would be criminal to pollute and otherwise contaminate streams in this area through mining activities.

What impact would it have on your daily life and recreational activities if the watershed were contaminated or impaired? This could result in fish kills, trails being closed and seasons limited.

This would adversely affect the tourism industry which is critical to businesses and citizens of the Rapid City area. The counties in the watershed receive more than half of their annual tax revenues from outdoor recreation. Contamination could adversely affect this tax revenue. Thank you for considering these comments.