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First name: Greg

Last name: Camphire

Organization:

Title:

Comments: I am asking the U.S. Forest Service to support the Pactola area mineral withdrawal, and also to 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 for the next seven generations of life on Earth.

I strongly urge the Forest Service to say YES to the Pactola Reservoir-Rapid Creek Watershed Withdrawal, and to perform an Environmental Assessment (EA). This is essential to maintain good water quality that is free of toxic pollutants while also respecting the sacred lands of the Lakota People. According to the World Wildlife Fund, Indigenous peoples comprise less than 5% of the world population, but they protect 80% of the Earth's biodiversity. Therefore, it's essential for all peoples of the world to look towards Indigenous groups including the Lakota for responsible leadership in our time of climate crisis.

Water is life. We must protect it!

Thank you,

Greg