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Comments: I support the Pactola Reservoir mineral withdrawal. Our family has enjoyed this area for four generations of fishing, boating, swimming, hiking, and family gatherings. My husband, daughters, and grandchildren have been a volunteers for numerous organizations and boards working to educate citizens about protecting this environment for more than two decades.

We urge you to consider that the inflows to Pactola and the outflows to Rapid Creek are totally exposed to whatever mineral exploration dumps in above or below the reservoir. Not only is this area important for its cultural and recreational values, it is the sole source of drinking water for Rapid City, Ellsworth Air Force Base, and rural communities all the way to the Cheyenne River. Mineral exploration and mining do not have a clean record when it comes to spills, and their argument that "exploration is not mining" is absurd. Why would exploration companies spend the money to explore if they were not confident the sites could be developed and mined?

And speaking of the economics of this, the counties surrounding the watershed get more than HALF their tax revenue from outdoor recreation businesses. Gold companies? No money stays here.

Please make this 27,000 acre withdrawal just the first step.