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First name: Bradley

Last name: Schneck

Organization:

Title:

Comments: I fully support the mineral withdrawal proposal and think it should be expanded even further. The area of Rapid Creek and Pactola Reservoir is an important habitat for a number of species that make their homes in the Black Hills. Hairy Woodpeckers, Osprey, and Mountain Goats are just a few examples that would be affected by increased commercial vehicle traffic and the impact that a drilling project for any minerals would inevitably bring. Not only is that area important for local wildlife, it is also important as a source of clean water for the entire Rapid City area and beyond. Protecting our wildlife and the environment is paramount to mineral extraction. Protecting our access to clean water is even more so. And finally, this is a recreational area that my family uses often to hike, swim, and adventure in the outdoors. We don't want to see those areas taken over by mining operations that will pollute them and ruin them.