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Organization:

Title:

Comments: As a young community member in the Black Hills area, it is at this time that I ask decision-makers to prioritize the vitality of generations to come by saying YES to the proposed withdrawal of 20,574 acres of land around Pactola and Rapid Creek AND expand that withdrawal area to include even more acreage. We need you to protect ALL that is the sacred Black Hills. Not only does mining (exploratory or otherwise), pose great risks to our drinking water, downstream ecosystems, and endangered species, out-of-state corporations are reaping monetary benefits from their degrading practices. Why would the health of our biological communities ever be placed second to corporations that come and go as they please? Why do we continue to grant these money-hungry conglomerates the rights to deplete the natural and cultural resources that sustain our communities? While you ponder these questions, I also ask that the US Forest Service conducts an EA and FONSI for this proposal. Show up for young people, like me, who want a future in this place we call home, that is not devastated by the impacts of corporations that care more about money in their pockets than whether we have clean water to drink. Thank you for your time and consideration.