

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 6/17/2023 6:08:57 PM

First name: Donald

Last name: Siebert

Organization:

Title:

Comments: I would like the Forest Service to say Yes to the Pactola Watershed Withdrawal. I totally support the position of the USFS not to allow any new mining in our pristine and beautiful Black Hills.

Mining is by its very nature a very dirty operation. It require drilling, blasting, removal of overburden, and the piling of waste rock. Moreover, the heavy equipment required is noisy, smokey, creates dust, and operates around the clock.

The above are but a small sample of the incompatibility between mining and the tourist industry in the Black Hills. Not to be overlooked also are the abandoned mines that, for whatever reason, the mine owner declares bankruptcy, and leaves the mine for the Federal and State governments to clean up and restore. These Superfund sites cost us millions. The Withdrawal is a super idea. It should be approved.