

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 6/19/2023 10:46:49 AM

First name: Edward

Last name: Peaple

Organization:

Title:

Comments: Dear United States Forest Service.

I would like to ask that you extend the Pactola area mineral withdrawal to cover all federal land within the Black Hills.

While I'm not an Indigenous American and I'm not even American, but here in Europe there is a source of admiration for America at its best; a land where everyone can live freely, practice their faith without fear of harassment from Commissars or Common vitriol where all are entitled to the enjoyment of their life, liberty and property without fear of this being lost unless by due process of the law which shall only strike if they live in disharmony with their neighbours.

While America at its best is somewhat illusionary, the extension shall give a great chance to make this happen; the Black Hills are sacred land for the Lakota people and much like how much anger would be felt at the disruption of Salt Lake Temple allowing development of this land would deny the Lakota people that freedom to worship and would an Establishment of Religion antithetical to the very ideals upon which the Fair Republic was built, the land is just as sacred if not more so than the Battlefield of First Bull Run/Manassas which was deemed to be too important to allow the Walt Disney Corporation to disturb with a nearby American History Theme Park <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oqDqnQR5Aw&pp=ygUcRGVmdW5jdGxhbmQgRGlzbmV5J3MgQW1lcmJlYQ%3D%3D> and how much less

respectful to more sacred soil would mining be.

Not only that but the waters of the Pactola Reservoir Rapid-Creek Watershed provide clean water for both Indigenous and non-indigenous communities in the area and as water brings forth life how can any people enjoy their life (let alone their liberty or property) if the water they drink is filled with toxic chemicals (I'm sure we all remember what happened at Hinkley, even though the water company paid out damages the town still ended up having to be largely abandoned).

I also understand that answers are needed and so an Environmental Assessment should be done and hopefully this will bring light to the truth that no significant environmental impact will be had when the miners leave.

Yours with Respect.