

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 6/19/2023 12:48:14 PM

First name: Michael

Last name: Schlumpberger

Organization:

Title:

Comments: Good Day:

I would like to express my opposition to the proposed Pactola Watershed mineral withdrawal. It is a bureaucratic move that over reaches and oversteps the Federal and State regulations that are in place that provide clear mitigation steps for any perceived or real potential. This over reach is completely unnecessary and will have an economic impact to the State of South Dakota. This withdrawal would also likely impact the Biden Administration's proclaimed goals of a green energy and critical mineral independence of the United States.

As such the comment period should be extended for another 30 days to allow the Black Hills National Forest Advisory Board sufficient time to discuss and provide input on the proposed withdrawal. Additionally a full Environmental Impact Study (EIS) should be conducted to fully understand and assess potential impacts to the Rapid Creek Watershed. The taxpayers should also be provided a total cost and cost per claim to complete a Validation Study and/or Mineral Examination of the estimated 800 to 900 claims in the pending withdrawal area. This should also likely include costs to nullify any claims if a withdrawal was to be put in place as claims are considered an existing right. This cost should likely also include the loss of grazing, logging, and recreation uses as these will likely also be impacted in a "ripple down" effect should a mineral withdrawal be put in place.

Yet again I point out that this potential withdrawal is not only unnecessary but is completely redundant. There are existing regulations in place that protect the watershed and allow for environmentally responsible extraction of minerals. The extraction of these minerals not only strengthens and diversifies the South Dakota economy, but will likely help protect the US economy and supply chain by reshoring critical mineral extraction within the State. With mining being a temporary land use, the goal of mineral extraction and environmental responsibility/protection of the environment do not need to be mutually exclusive.

Respectfully submitted,

Michael X. Schlumpberger.