

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 6/19/2023 3:05:49 PM

First name: tony

Last name: auld

Organization:

Title:

Comments: I strongly oppose the Pactola Reservoir - Watershed withdrawal, The United States Forest Service (USFS) and the State of South Dakota already have the authority to deny projects that are deemed likely to have significant impacts to the environment, specifically Water Quality and Cultural Resources. This withdrawal focuses on the potential pollutants from a hypothetical project that might possibly exist one day, as opposed to the thousands of sources of water pollution that actually do exist in the watershed right now. The withdrawal targets a single industry without evidence that there will be any impact whatsoever. The entire process could cost taxpayers millions and at the same time discourage future investment in the state.

Please use your authority to evaluate individual projects based on their merits and not simply a blanket cancellation of one specific industry that is integral to the current administration's stated goal of reducing reliance on foreign imports of critical minerals.