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Comments: As a lifelong inhabitant and lover of the Black Hills wilderness, I am writing in favor of a mineral withdrawal and environmental assessment regarding the Pactola Reservoir/Upper Rapid Creek watershed. This land has been pillaged by the perpetrators of white settlement since it was "discovered" by the U.S. military over a century ago and it is time to think critically and act in alliance with the community of Indigenous stewards and allies to protect the Land for future generations. While we know mining to be destructive and wasteful in general, this area is particularly vulnerable and precious as a rare ecosystem that supports numerous rare species of flora and fauna. May the USDA forest service and the Bureau of Land Management act in favor of biologically regenerative, inclusive and environmentally informed policy as opposed to policy dictated and directed by the short-term profits of a few wealthy operators.