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Organization:

Title:

Comments: I am a property/home owner in Silver City, SD, where Rapid Creek flows into Pactola Reservoir; and I draw water for domestic uses from a private well on our property. I am a former 15 year member of the SD Water Management Board. I am very concerned about the possible contamination of Rapid Creek and/or the aquifer by mining operations in the Rapid Creek watershed upstream from Pactola Reservoir. While I am not opposed to all mining in the Black Hills, the record of stream contamination by mining operations in the Black Hills is of great concern, with a SuperFund site as a reminder of the inability of State and Federal regulation to adequately protect the public interest in the waters of the Black Hills.

I believe that the proposed moratorium to prohibit mining in a part of the Rapid Creek watershed in the area upstream of Silver City and Pactola Reservoir affects only a small percentage of the acreage of the Black Hills, but affects an important watershed for Silver City and Pactola Reservoir.

In view of that record and the inability of USFS BHNF to effectively protect the public interest due to the antiquated provisions of the 1872 US Mining Act and mining regulations, the proposed mining withdrawal seems to be the only/most effective way to protect the public interest in the waters and area in the Rapid Creek/Pactola Reservoir watershed which is proposed to be withdrawn.

I support the proposed withdrawal from mining in the Rapid Creek watershed area upstream from Silver City and Pactola Reservoir for a period of 20 years.