Data Submitted (UTC 11): 6/21/2023 3:37:01 AM
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Comments: I am deeply concerned about the proposed withdrawal of 20,574 acres of National Forest System lands in the Pactola Reservoir - Rapid Creek Watershed. Environmental justice must be prioritized in decisions that impact our natural resources and communities.

The potential consequences of such a withdrawal can disproportionately affect marginalized communities and exacerbate existing environmental inequities. It is crucial that the voices of impacted communities, particularly those who have historically been marginalized or disadvantaged, are heard and taken into account during the decision-making process.

I urge the USDA Forest Service and USDI Bureau of Land Management to ensure a thorough and inclusive public engagement process, providing ample opportunity for meaningful community input. Environmental justice demands equitable access to clean air, clean water, and a healthy environment for all. Let us work together to safeguard the well-being of our communities and protect our natural resources for future generations.