Data Submitted (UTC 11): 6/21/2023 5:08:23 AM
First name: Sophia
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Organization:
Title:
Comments: As a Lakota Ph.D. in immunology and microbiology, I am demanding that the "20,574 acres of National Forest System lands in the Pactola Reservoir - Rapid Creek Watershed in Pennington County, South Dakota be withdrawn from settlement, sale, location or entry under the public land laws, location and entry under the United States mining laws, and leasing under the mineral leasing and geothermal leasing laws, subject to valid existing rights, for up to 20 years."

Public health relies on accessible clean water. Settlements, sales, mining and disruptions to water reservoirs hinder the health of the ecosystem (land, water, plants, microbes, insects, animals and human beings), which hinders the health of the water and subsequently hinders the health of the downstream communities who rely on the water.

Mining installations release toxic substances into the environment and peer reviewed scientific studies have shown that people develop cancer excessively when they are exposed to the toxic substances released into the environment by mining. See these studies at this link for reference: https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/22846765/.

Already, an estimate of 5340 new cases of cancer are expected in South Dakota in 2023 and an estimate of 1760 cancer deaths are expected in South Dakota in 2023. Unhealthy and dead people cannot work and cannot make purchases to keep an economy sustained and thriving.

Additionally, because the Black Hills are unceded treaty territory of the Oceti Sakowin people, the federal government has no business trying to further mine the Black Hills. Leave our land, water, air, plant, microbe, animal and human relatives alone who rely on the health of the ecosystem of the Black Hills.

Sincerely,
Dr. Sophia Marjanovic, Ph.D.
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Fort Peck Oglala Lakota