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Comments: The USFS submitted an application to the Bureau of Land Management requesting the Secretary of the Interior withdraw approximately 20,574 acres of National Forest System lands administered by the Black Hills National Forest, from all forms of entry, appropriation, and disposal under the public land laws; location, entry, and patent under the mining laws; and operation of the mineral leasing and geothermal leasing laws, subject to valid existing rights, for a term of 20 years. If the Secretary of the Interior were to approve the withdrawal, National Forest System lands in the withdrawal application area would be closed to sale or exchange, and no new mining claims or mineral or geothermal leases would be authorized for the term of the withdrawal. The withdrawal would not affect disposal of mineral materials. Non-federal lands and minerals would not be subject to the withdrawal.

The purpose of the requested withdrawal is to protect and preserve cultural and natural resources of the Pactola Reservoir - Rapid Creek Watershed, including municipal water for Rapid City and Ellsworth Air Force Base, from the known and potential adverse environmental impacts that may arise from exploration and development of federally owned minerals.