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Comments: I have grown up in the Black Hills and am currently getting a degree in environmental sciences. I learn every day about how the mining and exploitation of natural resources can destroy habitats and poison water and food. The Pactola area is a watershed to Rapid creek and the aquifer my family and I drink from. If mining in this area were not properly cleaned and regulated it would threaten the health of my community. My family and I also often visit Pactola to swim and fish. The water there is our favorite because it is clear enough to snorkel and see all the fish and turtles and lake plants. Mining in this watershed could compromise the health of Pactola's water, killing the fish and making it unsafe to swim. The Black Hills are also a sacred place to many people. To respect the significance of the Black Hills as a sacred place we have a responsibility to use the utmost caution in our stewardship of the land. I support the Pactola mineral withdrawal and protection of Black Hills land.