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First name: David Last name: Heikes Organization:

Title:

Comments: Dear Forest Service Folks: I wrote before and attended the public meetings. Now, I am very pleased that your decision is to withdraw the area in question, the 20000 acres of the Pactola Watershed, from mineral exploration and mining activity. You have done the right thing, here. Water is life. Clean water is essential also to Ellsworth, tourism, the people that live in the Black Hills, environmental health, and to the cultural and religious value of water and the Hills. I thank you for making this decision and hope that the Secretary of the Interior gives final approval. As a final note, I realize other mining projects or proposed projects are ongoing in the Hills. Whether it be gold, lithium, uranium, or some other mineral, the same applies: watersheds, lakes, rivers and indeed aquifers must be protected from contamination so that all may have clean water., now and for generations to come. Respectfully, David Heikes