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Comments: As a long time resident of the Black Hills and, most recently, Rapid City, I am writing in support of mineral withdrawal from the Pactola area. The protection of our most precious resource, water, needs to take precedence over the economic gains that might happen with mineral extraction. It could run the risk of negatively impacting tourism, the economic engine of the Black Hills. We must also keep in mind that this water is vital for Ellsworth Air Force Base

Contamination could negatively impact national security. And, we need torespect the desire of the Native community in their desire to not desecrate Mother Earth by mining.