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First name: Kristina

Last name: Allen

Organization:

Title:

Comments: As an environmental engineer specializing in hydrogeology and contaminant transport, I started my career doing environmental remediation at Tar Creek Superfund site, one of the most contaminated sites in the country due to mining. The mining industry contaminated a region in three states and utterly decimated an entire community including underground, groundwater, surface water, soil, property values, people's health, livelihoods, and eventually one town's existence. After remediating all of the high access lead contaminated sites in one town for years, I saw the government come in and purchase an entire town which is now a ghost town. The rest of the area is in extreme poverty and very poor health.

The Rapid Creek watershed is a vital resource for this entire area of the state of South Dakota. It supports communities like Rapid City as well as recreation and business in the Black Hills. As a Rapid City resident, I depend on this for my drinking water for myself and my family. Without clean drinking water, life in this area will be unsustainable.

Additionally, as a veteran and federal employee, I have severe concerns about the national defense implications for Ellsworth AFB and the new B-21 program currently bedding down at EAFB as a part of the United States' nuclear deterrence. These concerns need to be addressed in conjunction with the DoD.

I support this mineral withdrawal and FONS for the Pactola and Rapid Creek area for 20,000 acres of federal land for 20 years. Do not let the beautiful area of the country and spiritually important area for the native population become a future superfund site.