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Comments: I am firmly in favor of the proposed Administrative mineral claims withdrawal around Pactola Reservoir. I agree with the FONSI and am supportive of this withdrawal even though the EA had some inaccuracies regarding the size and scope of the watershed and encompasses less than 10% of the actual Upper Rapid Creek Watershed.

This process started 19 months ago, the timeline has been throughly adequate and procedurally this withdrawal should occur posthaste.

I spend a lot of time recreating in the watershed, hiking, camping, kayaking, canoeing, hunting, and fishing and this area is a critical resource in our region. This withdrawal will have no impact on the recreational users in the region and a positive impact to the economy of our region with some small protections to critical drinking water sources.

I urge the Administration to evaluate the current literature around the watershed, the deeply complex interactions between the aquifer and tributaries like Rapid Creek and to expand the withdrawal after the approval of this one. The entire watershed demands reasonable protections from hard rock mining and to ensure rational multiple use which isn't compatible with large scale hard rock mining.

Ellsworth Airforce Base sources it's drinking water from this watershed due to aquifer recharge activities and this withdrawal (and an expansion to the entire watershed) is a critical national defense priority.

No delays should be allowed and the withdrawal should proceed forward after the comment deadline.