Data Submitted (UTC 11): 10/10/2024 5:22:40 PM

First name: dontae Last name: carpio

Organization: IIYCOG (International Indigenous Youth Chapter - Oglala Lakota)

Title: ikce wicasa

Comments: Comment on Pactola Reservoir-Rapid Creek Watershed Withdrawal

As a 21-year-old who has had no say in the reckless decisions made by so-called "leaders," it's incredibly depressing to witness how our future is being sold off for the sake of corporate greed. This proposal, like so many others, reflects a total disregard for the people, land, and life itself. The ongoing ecocide against humanity and the environment, thinly veiled as economic development, is not just irresponsible-it's shameful.

Our Indigenous peoples have been warning about the consequences of such careless exploitation for generations, yet we are constantly ignored. The world is literally burning and drowning before our eyes-two hurricanes just ravaged Florida in the past few weeks alone-but our leaders seem content to sit in their offices, pretending there's "no significant impact" from their actions. It's insulting to anyone paying attention. The climate crisis is accelerating, and decisions like this only ensure that future generations will be left with nothing but poisoned water, scorched earth, and memories of what once was.

How dare the USDA Forest Service claim there is "no significant impact" here? Have they consulted with anyone beyond the corporate boardrooms that stand to profit from this? Or are they just blindly rubber-stamping destruction in the name of progress? The reality is that these watersheds, these lands, are sacred-not just to Indigenous communities, but to all life. The future of humanity is being decided right now, and if we allow decisions like this to continue, the result will be clear: death. Death of ecosystems, death of communities, and eventually, death of humanity.

We cannot keep passively watching as these corporations slowly strangle the life out of our planet while our socalled leaders facilitate it. The power belongs to the people, not to these corporations. We must resist these acts of greed or accept that we're signing our own death warrants. Resist or die. It's that simple. The urgency of this moment cannot be overstated, and the time to act is now-before it's too late. Toksa akhe.