Data Submitted (UTC 11): 10/15/2024 12:05:43 AM
First name: Joyce
Last name: Payton
Organization:
Title:
Comments: Dear Shawn Cochran, Forest Supervisor, BHNF

For some time I have been reading about the proposal of mining around the Pactola Reservoir. I was happy to further read of the withdrawal of all mining and exploration of such . I am in total support of protecting the 20,000 + acres from any disruption of any kind. There is only one Pactola Lake in the Black Hills of South Dakota and we need to do everything we can to keep it protected.

I want to share with you why.

1) It's beauty and all that it offers - recreation, in the water, on land and in the surrounding forest
2) Rapid City's clean water source
3) It supplies irrigation to the ranch land in Rapid Valley, it is required by law that the water is let when it is called for.
4) Support of wildlife, in the water, on the land and in the air
5) Tourism destination.

Agriculture, Tourism, and Forestry are the top industries of South Dakota. As I see it, the proposed mining would affect all three. I owned and operated a tourism based business for 35 years. I know first hand what our travelers think of Pactola and the Black Hills. It's important not to cut off the hand that feeds us. I live on a piece of land that has been in the family for 4 generations, soon to be run by the fifth. On this land, over the years, an agricultural living has been crafted as well as timber harvested, milled and supplied to our fellow residents of the Black Hills. Myself as well as my family knows first hand how important it is to protect what we have.

Thank You for supporting the withdraw of mining around Pactola Reservoir.