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First name: Cherlyn
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Organization:
Title:
Comments: I was born in Hot Springs and now live in the northern Black Hills. I love this area for the beauty, wildlife, sports and cultural heritage. The Pactola area brings in tens of thousands of tourists and, as a result, millions of dollars. That tourism dollar is a direct result of the beauty, history, and recreation of the Pactola area.
I vote for a resounding "YES" in support of the Forest Service proposal to protect over 20,000 acres surrounding Pactola Reservoir and Upper Rapid Creek. This is the water supply for the people and wildlife for Rapid City and Ellsworth. Both of these communities are growing rapidly and the need for safe and drinkable water cannot be understated.
It is beyond reasonable comprehension that gold exploration would be allowed to proceed with the high risk of contamination of a vital water source. Again, I vote "YES" on the Forest Service proposal to protect Pactola and Upper Rapid Creek.