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First name: Sarah
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Organization:
Title:
Comments: I strongly support the Pactola Mineral Withdrawal. This decision is crucial for protecting the environment, honoring tribal treaty rights, and safeguarding the region's natural resources.

Here's why:

Landback: The mineral withdrawal aligns with the ongoing movement for landback, which seeks to return ancestral lands to Indigenous peoples. This withdrawal is a step towards acknowledging and addressing historical injustices. Water Quality Concerns: Pactola Reservoir is a vital source of drinking water for the region. Mining activities can pose significant risks to water quality, including pollution from chemicals and sediment. By preventing mining, we protect this essential resource. Honoring Tribal Treaty Rights: The withdrawal respects the treaty rights of Indigenous tribes, many of whom have deep cultural and spiritual connections to the Pactola area. It recognizes their sovereignty and the importance of protecting their ancestral lands. Fishing Rights: The Pactola Reservoir is a popular fishing destination. Mining activities can disrupt aquatic ecosystems, harming fish populations and impacting recreational fishing. By protecting the area from mining, we safeguard the health of fish and the enjoyment of fishing for local communities and visitors.

The Pactola Mineral Withdrawal is a necessary and responsible decision that prioritizes the health of our ecosystems, the well-being of local communities, and the protection of Indigenous rights.