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Comments: I concur with. and present the following, from the Rapid Creek Watershed Organization, (This is an issue of greed versus common sense. As we well know, Greed Never Sleeps)..

Mineral exploration and mining upstream from Pactola Reservoir threaten to contaminate water flowing into (and out of) the Reservoir. Mining downstream from Pactola Reservoir threatens to contaminate water that flows directly from Rapid Creek into the Madison and Minnelusa aquifers-the main aquifers from which municipal and private wells supplying Rapid City, Ellsworth Air Force Base, surrounding communities, and thousands of private landowners draw their water.

While Mineral withdrawals do not interfere with timber harvest, grazing leases, or existing recreational or cultural activities on withdrawn public lands, they will in fact protect these uses because they stop mineral exploration and mining from displacing or destroying land and resources these activities utilize.

Lastly, Rapid Creek Watershed Action believes that this proposal is a START, but it DOES NOT include the majority of the watershed that would need protection in order to satisfy the stated purpose: to protect cultural and natural resources and municipal water supplies for Rapid City and Ellsworth Air Force Base.??