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Comments: I strongly and urgently support the Pactola Reservoir-Rapid Creek Watershed Withdrawal, in an effort to preserve more than 20,000 acres at the headlands of the Rapid Creek Watershed. This pristine and sensitive area must be protected by requiring mining companies to withdraw.

There are so few protected natural areas left in our country. They are essential to our health and well-being. They contribute to preserving clean air and water in a wider geographic area and to reducing carbon emissions, which is essential to slowing climate change. They serve to protect the flora and fauna native to the area at a time when many species are endangered or nearing extinction because of the intrusion of human industry.

It's painful to witness the destruction of our natural places, places we must endeavor to preserve for future generations, as well as for the Native peoples for whom this land and water are sacred.

I urge the Forest Service to expedite the Withdrawal proposal to the Secretary of the Department of Interior.