

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 10/23/2024 3:26:09 AM

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Organization:

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Comments: I am writing in support of the Pactola Reservoir-Rapid Creek Watershed Withdrawal Project. The headlands of the Rapid Creek Watershed provide pristine waters - water that is essential for anyone downstream, including 80.9K residents in Rapid City and 13.9K at Ellsworth Air Force Base and Box Elder, SD. The area also provides unequaled habitat and ecosystems, which in times of climate change should be preserved even more urgently. Finally, the Black Hills include Sacred Lands, He Sapa, and offers much needed recreational resources, with all the dependent economic activities. For these reasons, any mining companies should withdraw from this sensitive area, and I fully support the USDA Forest Service requiring this withdrawal. Withdrawing would have no serious environmental impact - to the contrary, mining would put this area at enormous risk of irrevocable destruction.

I respectfully ask that the USDA Forest Service EXPEDITE the Withdrawal proposal to the Secretary of the Department of Interior. And I urge you to ask for a FULL watershed withdrawal.

Thank you for your consideration,