Data Submitted (UTC 11): 10/23/2024 3:36:04 AM First name: Angela Last name: Cooke Organization: Title: Comments: To whom it may concern,

I support this Withdrawal of mining from the Pactola Reservoir/Rapid Creek Watershed. We need to preserve our natural spaces, and especially their carbon sequestering effects more than we need any of the resources other than clean water from those spaces. I grew up camping in national, state, and regional forests, and would not trade those experiences or spaces for all the money or fuel in the world. Future generations have the right to those experiences, just as much as local communities have the right to being assured that their water supplies will stay as clear as possible from undue human influences.

There's only so much we can do about nature, mostly indirectly. But there's everything in the world we can do for our own behavior and choices. Not actively ruining things we need not ruin should be a higher priority than profit. Always.

Please, expedite the Withdrawal proposal to the Secretary of the Department of Interior. Everything we can do to preserve our precious wild spaces is worth the effort.

--Angela Cooke--Sunnyvale, CA