Data Submitted (UTC 11): 10/23/2024 6:45:50 PM First name: David Last name: Keys Organization:

Title:

Comments: I fully support this Withdrawal and ask that the Forest Service expedite the Withdrawal proposal to the Secretary of Interior. The Pactola Reservoir-Rapid Creek Watershed is indeed a critical area, rich in cultural and natural resources that warrant protection. The United States Forest Service has recognized this by filing an application with the Bureau of Land Management to withdraw over 20,000 acres of land from various forms of development and mineral exploration for 20 years. This proposal aims to safeguard the watershed's integrity, which is vital for providing municipal water to Rapid City and Ellsworth Air Force Base, as well as preserving sacred sites and wildlife habitats. The withdrawal would also help maintain air and water quality, scenic beauty, and reduce the risk of fire hazards, soil erosion, and compaction. Such proactive measures are essential for ensuring that these invaluable resources remain unharmed for future generations.