

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 10/23/2024 10:45:48 PM

First name: JESUS

Last name: RAMIREZ

Organization:

Title:

Comments: Dear USFS Officers and Project Managers:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this withdrawal project. I write to you today in strong support of the Pactola Reservoir-Rapid Creek Watershed Withdrawal from commercial and mining uses.

The area represents a boon to biodiversity and to the natural world. I agree that it should be protected from exploitation. The land is furthermore culturally significant and sacred to my Lakota siblings and other indigenous peoples that benefit from and care for the land in a reciprocal relationship. Though I have yet to visit the Black Hills, I hope that we can all collaborate to conserve it for the plants, animals, and humans who share in its natural wealth; I wish to see it and to guarantee that generations to come may also be in community with this land.

In writing, I have another request that this project be expedited and sent to the Secretary of the Department of the Interior. Time is of the essence when conservation is at play; the best time to take care of our Earth was yesterday! I would feel very reassured to know that this project will continue and soon be approved so we may protect the land.

Thank you again for your consideration and for the space to comment. I send you all blessings.