Data Submitted (UTC 11): 10/24/2024 12:52:45 AM First name: Grayson Last name: Caricofe Organization:

Title:

Comments: As a resident of the black hills, the recent proposal of the watershed withdrawal from Rapid Creek is concerning, as the draft EA contains a number of factual inaccuracies and fails to meet certain ADA requirements. The draft contains no recent mineral exploration drafts and if recent ones have been made, why have they not been included. The withdrawal area contains multiple critical minerals including antimony. The mining of these minerals would bring jobs to the region and expand the economy of the black hills. These minerals are also a matter of national security, and designated by the DoD as critical. There is little to no scientific basis provided to justify the necessity of this withdrawal, and conflicts with pre-existing administrative policy. The comment period should be extended so that the NFAB can address this matter at their November meeting.