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Organization:

Title:

Comments: I am writing to strongly support this Withdrawal in order to protect more than 20,000 acres at the headlands of the Rapid Creek Watershed from mining operations. As a resident of California's Central Valley, I know the importance of protecting our water resources from contamination, wherever they may be located; and from my travels, I know the Black Hills as a very beautiful and unique place, a place that must be preserved so that future generations can experience this beauty and uniqueness. Finally, as a professor who has taught Native American philosophy and religion for more than 30 years, I know that the Black Hills are very sacred land for the Lakota people. It is the land where Black Elk and so many others have sought visions to help guide them through difficult times, the land which one Lakota leader referred to as the center, the "church," of their spiritual lives. Please stop the desecration of this sacred area by expediting this Withdrawal proposal to the Secretary of the Department of the Interior.