Data Submitted (UTC 11): 10/25/2024 4:32:29 PM First name: James Last name: Mead Organization:

## Title:

Comments: Clearly I support this Withdrawal. It is time now to protect the Black Hills as much as we can from whittling away of its resources (cultural and natural). Although we seem to consistently hear that any mining operation of land has its safeguards and will not pollute the hydrological system - we always see that in time this is not true. And we see that companies are never or rarely held responsible for cleanup and restoration. Given this continued scenario, now is our chance to totally protect a critical chunk of the Black Hills - resources and visual beauty. The BH are not really all that big so let's not lose any more of this unique mountain mass. Paleontology shows that the BH are in a unique position as an ecotone for eastern and western species and communities as our land shifts due to climate change. Although we feel that glacial to interglacial climate changes are slow, we know that as it progresses is actually fast - we see it today but we seem to not want to accept what we see or know how to interpret it. Let's not make yet another poor decision that destroys our land and thus our society. I support the withdrawal. I thank you for your wisdom.