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First name: Michael

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Organization:

Title:

Comments: My name is Mike Catches Enemy, a proud member of the Titunwan Lakota Oyate (Oglala, Hunkpapa, Mnikoju), and I am submitting my comments on the draft environmental assessment and finding of no significant impact for the Pactola Reservoir-Rapid Creek Watershed Withdrawal.

I have a responsibility as a descendent of the original peoples of these ancestral homelands to help protect the land, water, animals, and people of our Sacred Black Hills. My comment is to protect 20,534 acres in the Black Hills from mining contamination activities for the next generations to come. Mining companies are continuing to threaten to contaminate Jenny Gulch, a recreation area at the Pactola Reservoir that I too, along with my family enjoy for fishing, boating, and swimming; and these mining companies are putting our critical water supply and community health at serious risk.

The U.S. Forest Service is proposing a Mineral Withdrawal, and if approved, it would protect our drinking water from dangerous mining contamination for up to 20 years. It is with honor and respect that I submit my comment in favor of the U.S. Forest Service's Pactola Area-Rapid Creek Watershed Mineral Withdrawal.