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Comments: Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this historic project.

I am in full support of the Pactola Area Mineral Withdrawal as it stands, and encourage the Forest Service to move forward with haste. I would also like to see this withdrawal expand to a bare minimum of the entire Rapid Creek Watershed, and the entire Black Hills at a maximum. It is time to put the rights of the citizens of the Black Hills at the heart of this conversation, not the out-of-state and out-of-country mining companies who continue to pillage these sacred hills.

With the ongoing global water crisis getting worse by the day, it *\*should\** seem reasonable (even to the mining industry) that we should be protecting our sources of clean, potable water. This not an us vs. them situation. This is a call to action to help guarantee future generations the same access to clean water that we have now. Do it for our service members at Ellsworth. Do it for our indigenous relatives who continue to fight night and day for our environment, even while we reside on their land. Do it for the future of our kids and grandkids.

Clean water is a right, not a privilege.