

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 10/28/2024 4:49:36 PM

First name: Anissa

Last name: Martin

Organization:

Title:

Comments: I am an enrolled citizen of the Oglala Lakota Nation. I fully support the proposed Pactola Mineral Withdrawal, which is essential for protecting the Pactola Reservoir and Jenny Gulch from the harmful impacts of mining. Our people and communities depend on this sacred water source for drinking, recreation, and sustenance, and we cannot afford to risk contamination that would threaten both public health and our environment. Extraction in the He Sapa (Black Hills) is a violation of treaty rights and undermines the sovereignty of Tribal Nations. Mining activities in the He Sapa result in irreversible damage to water quality and disrespect the rights of Tribal Nations.

Beyond safeguarding our water supply, this withdrawal honors Tribal fishing rights and respects the ancestral connections we as Indigenous communities have to the land. It is critical we protect Pactola Reservoir for future generations, ensuring they have clean water and healthy ecosystems to rely on. I urge the US Forest Service to approve the Mineral Withdrawal to keep this invaluable resource safe and sustainable for all, and to extend this protection to all of the sacred He Sapa (Black Hills), preserving these lands and waters for generations to come.