

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 10/28/2024 5:00:35 PM

First name: Paula

Last name: Antoine

Organization:

Title:

Comments: Greeting, please accept my support for the Withdrawal . My Lakota Name is Wicogan Awayaka Win (Center of the Nation) and my english name is Paula Antoine, I am a citizen of the Lakota Nation, a member of the Sicangu, Ihanktawan, and Oglala bands. And I am a citizen of this country.

I support the Withdrawal - to be more specific the USFS request of 20,574 acres of NFS lands be withdrawn (closed) to all forms of entry, appropriation, and disposal under the mining laws, mineral and geothermal leasing laws, and public land laws, subject to valid existing rights.

He Sapa (The Black Hills and the Rapid Creek watershed area) are meaningful to me as a member of the Lakota Nation, we pray and hold ceremonies there many times a year.

The Rapid Creek watershed is located in the central Black Hills (Lakota Name: He Sapa) which is considered the Lakota Oyate (my nation's) origin. We consider He Sapa as a whole to contain significant cultural resources, Pe' Sla, a key Lakota cultural site as one of the many. Rapid Creek, called Mniluzahan ("mni" means water; "luzahan" means fast) by the Lakota, was recently designated as one of America's Most Endangered Rivers because of the criticality of the watershed and the problems that is exasperated and associated with gold exploration, gold mining and mining in general. The watershed it provides the water for the state's second-largest municipality, Rapid City, for Ellsworth Air Force Base, and for reservations, smaller communities, and agriculture along the creek as it flows to the Cheyenne and Missouri Rivers. And to mention that the Black Hills area is an important recharge area for aquifers in the northern Great Plains.