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Organization:

Title:

Comments: I am totally in favor of the Pactola-Rapid Creek Watershed Withdrawal proposal. There are many reasons that the withdrawal is the right thing to be done.

Some reasons are personal. I have called the Black Hills my home for a few decades and I do not see any benefit that either myself or my neighbors would gain from it. I love exploring the wild areas around Pactola because of the beautiful trees, plants and animals that I might encounter on my way. If those plant and animals had a voice in this, there is no doubt in my mind they too would be in favor of the Pactola-Rapid Creek Watershed Withdrawal. Pactola and Rapid Creek are my water supply and I don't want it put at risk of contamination.

Some reasons for the Withdrawal are historical. Mining companies have terrible track records, are solely profit driven and have no conscience or respect for the land. They come in, take all they can, give little in return and leave a mess behind. Then there is the historical fact that this land is not "ours". The Black Hills belong to the tribes per the treaty with the US, and the tribes are totally in support of the Withdrawal. Protect the He Sapa!

The most important reason I support the withdrawal is practical. Mining anywhere in the Pactola-Rapid Creek Watershed would put the water supply for Rapid City, Ellsworth Air Force base, and all the plants and animals in between at risk of toxic chemical spills. It is simply not worth the risk.

We need to respect the Black Hills and prohibit any sort of mining or related activities from occurring therein!

Please expedite the Pactola-Rapid Creek Watershed Withdrawal proposal to the secretary of the Department of Interior.

Thank you.