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Comments: Greetings --

Thank you for the opportunity to add to our recent comments in support of the Pactola-Rapid Creek mineral withdrawal. I neglected one topic in our earlier comments and wish to add to those comments.

We support expediting the process of implementing this project, so that the area receives protection sooner -- rather than later or not at all -- and so that the views of the vast majority of commenters, tribal members, and area residents are respected. This is a unique and special area that includes significant resources and that deserves protection through a mineral withdrawal.

We also note that those on all sides of this issue have known for a year that another comment opportunity would arrive at about this time. Everyone has had more than adequate time to think through the issues, develop comments, solicit the input of all relevant parties, and encourage people to comment.

Thank you for your consideration.

Lilias Jarding, PhD

Executive Director

Black Hills Clean Water Alliance