

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 10/29/2024 5:18:47 AM

First name: Lysann

Last name: Zeller

Organization:

Title:

Comments: Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the draft environmental assessment and finding of no significant impact for the Pactola Reservoir - Rapid Creek Watershed Withdrawal #63876. The findings are appropriate considering no negative environmental impacts would result from the proposed withdrawal.

Protecting the Pactola watershed is critical for sustaining a viable drinking water supply for Rapid City and other communities and for helping to maintain a healthy ecosystem, as well as ensuring the Black Hills National Forest is preserved for recreation, tourism, and other uses. Every living thing depends on clean water, so I applaud the USFS's efforts to protect this area from potential negative impacts of mining activities for the next 20 years. This is a meaningful and impactful first step that will benefit everyone, and I would encourage additional steps continue to be taken to protect the entire Pactola watershed in perpetuity.