Data Submitted (UTC 11): 10/29/2024 5:33:39 AM First name: Stephen Last name: Barrett Organization:

## Title:

Comments: I am writing this to say that I fully support the Pactola reservoir-Rapid Creek Watershed mineral withdrawal. So many people, plants, and animals alike rely on Pactola and the Rapid Creek Watershed in the hills and out on to the plains this water sustains so much life in our Nation and it should not be ruined. I would also like to say that I believe that The Black Hills as a whole should be added to the mineral withdrawal as it is all sacred land to Lakota and the ONLY place many of our ceremonies can take place. To put the Black Hills in danger is to put our entire culture in danger. The Black Hills is also home to many unique plants and animals; the spices of American Dipper that lives here is genetically unique from any other American Dipper in the world, they are also an indicator species meaning that they are a sign of a good and healthy ecosystem however their population has drastically fallen over the years because of the pollution in the water and if they all die out there will be none like them left. So please protect the Pactola reservoir and the Rapid Creek Watershed and the Black Hills as a whole.