

SUPPORT OF THE PROPOSED MINERAL WITHDRAWAL AROUND PACTOLA RESERVOIR

Visit Rapid City's work is powered by a deep respect for the Black Hills, the Rapid City area, and the diverse cultures, experiences, and community members who make this more than a place where people live. We know that for every difference of opinion on issues that may arise between us, there is also a universal understanding that the land and this place invites us here and makes life possible.

Our love of place is shared across ideologic lines, and if properly nurtured, it will guide us to a future we are proud to leave to future generations. It is with these ideals in mind that Visit Rapid City is supportive of the proposed mineral withdrawal around the Pactola Reservoir. We urge the Bureau of Land Management and the US Forest Service to approve the withdrawal in the interest of protecting the primary drinking water source as well as a world-class recreational asset.

What Is A Mineral Withdrawal?

A mineral withdrawal is an action by the US Secretary of the Interior that limits mining activity in a specific area of public lands in order to maintain other public values, or for reserving the area for a particular public purpose. These values and purposes may include protecting scientific, scenic, historical, ecological, environmental, air, water, or archeological resources, or for other special purposes. In this case, the US Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management (BLM) are proposing to withdraw an area around Pactola Reservoir and upper Rapid Creek, totaling 20,574 acres. If the proposal is finalized by the Secretary of the Interior, the withdrawal will prevent new mining claims and exploration, and will limit mine development in that area.

What's Going On With Pactola?

In March of 2023, the US Forest Service, in coordination with the Bureau of Land Management, proposed a Mineral Withdrawal that would cover over 20,000 acres of public land surrounding the Pactola Reservoir near Rapid City, South Dakota. If approved, the Withdrawal would remove all future rights for mining, drilling, and exploration in that area for up to 20 years. The proposal was announced following public and Tribal outrage against a proposed exploratory drilling project located near Jenny Gulch.

Visit Rapid City And Our Shared Future

Visitors from all around the world come to enjoy the natural beauty of the Black Hills. Many come for our first-rate hunting, fishing, and outdoor recreation opportunities. As an organization responsible for protecting and growing the local visitor economy, Visit Rapid City supports the proposed mineral withdrawal around Pactola Reservoir.