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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Rapid Creek Watershed Action applauds announcement by federal agencies

The Forest Service press release states, in part, “In response to concerns about potential impacts of mining on the area’s natural resources and municipal water supply, the administration is initiating consideration of a 20-year withdrawal of this critical watershed on national forest system lands from location, entry, appropriation, and disposal under the mining laws and the mineral and geothermal leasing laws, subject to valid existing rights.”

“This action by the Forest Service and BLM acknowledges that exploration and mining in the Rapid Creek Watershed is a real and present threat to downstream water supplies and to the agricultural, recreation, and tourism economy we depend on, as well as to the cultural and spiritual resources of He Sapa—the Black Hills.” –Rebecca Terk, Rapid Creek Watershed Action Board

In accordance with the Federal Land Policy & Management Act (FLPMA), the Forest Service and BLM will hold a 90-day review process, beginning March 21, 2023, that will include Tribal consultation and opportunities for local government and public comment. Rapid Creek Watershed Action will coordinate with our partners and stakeholders to provide guidance and maximize participation in this crucial process.

Read the Full Press Release from the Forest Service:

<https://www.fs.usda.gov/news/releases/bureau-of-land-management-and-usda-forest-service-commit-to-study>

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