

RESOLUTION NO. 2022-069

RESOLUTION IN OPPOSITION TO THE UNITED STATES FOREST SERVICE'S FINDING
OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT FOR THE JENNY GULCH GOLD EXPLORATION
PROJECT BY F3 GOLD, LLC

WHEREAS, the U.S. Department of Agriculture, National Forest Service, Mystic District has given preliminary approval to F3 Gold LLC to explore for gold in the Rapid Creek watershed; and

WHEREAS, the Common Council of the City of Rapid City has expressed its opposition to exploration and potential gold mining in the Rapid Creek watershed during a specified comment period; and

WHEREAS, the Rapid Creek watershed and its connected aquifers are the sources for Rapid City's water supply; and

WHEREAS, the City of Rapid City is a major owner of the outflow of the waters of the Pactola Reservoir; and

WHEREAS, gold exploration could lead to gold mining, which involves the use of cyanide and other toxins and often leads to permanent acid mine drainage, which could go into Rapid Creek; and

WHEREAS, the current city water treatment facility is not equipped to remove this type of chemical contamination from the drinking water supply; and

WHEREAS, the Rapid City water treatment plant does not have the degree of real-time water quality monitoring that would alert operators to a spill or leakage event during exploration or subsequent mining; and

WHEREAS, the Rapid Creek watershed, including Pactola Reservoir, is a major recreation and tourism area, providing significant revenue to Rapid City's economy; and

WHEREAS, maintaining the quality and quantity of the water supply is of utmost importance to the City and to Ellsworth Air Force Base; and

WHEREAS, objections on approval of the F3 Gold LLC Jenny Gulch project are due to the U.S. Forest Service, Mystic District, by August 22, 2020; and

WHEREAS, the Common Council of the City of Rapid City believes that gold exploration in the Rapid Creek watershed poses an unacceptable risk to the source of Rapid City's drinking water.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the City of Rapid City that due to the potential risk to the Rapid Creek watershed, the City's water supply, and the local economy, the City

expresses opposition to the Forest Service's finding of no significant impact and its preliminary decision to issue the permit to allow gold exploration in the Rapid Creek watershed.

DATED this ____ day of _____, 2022.

CITY OF RAPID CITY

By _____
Steve Allender, Mayor

Attest

Pauline Sumption, Finance Director
(seal)