April 27, 2021

Colleen Garcia

Inyo National Forest

351 Pacu Lane, Suite 200

Bishop, CA 93514

Dear Ms. Garcia,

I write to express my concern that KORE, a Canadian mining company has taken steps explore mining sites less than a mile and a half of Hot Creek Ranch, Hot Creek Trout Hatchery, Hot Creek Geological Site, and Mammoth Yosemite airport. Gold exploration and road construction would irreparably harm these fragile lands. This area is popular with fisherman, outdoor enthusiasts and provides unique habitat to the endangered Sage Grouse, deer, bear, cougar, coyote, marmot, bald eagle and many other species.

I have several major concerns:

* Noise pollution from drilling rigs and even eventually strip mining, could harm wildlife and people that live in the area as well as local tourism.
* Mining typically comes with large vehicles and the amount of dust these vehicles would create coming down the dirt roads would cause dust and noise pollution to people as well as the endangered Sage Grouse and other species that live in the area.
* The Hot Creek Springs Geological Site has geysers and other visible signs of dynamic geologic processes in this volcanic region. The springs and geysers in the stream bed and along its banks change location, temperature, and flow rates frequently and unpredictably. Mining and blasting could weaken the areas around the faults, which could make them slip, just like in a major earthquake.
* The area has a delicate water table system and aquafers that is used for drinking water by Hot Creek Ranch, Hot Creek Trout Hatchery and Mammoth Yosemite airport as well as drinking water for cattle, deer, coyotes, etc. There is also a wild trout stream and the Hot Springs which is fed by multiple springs and how I am concerned the drilling may impact water quality. Gold mines use arsenic when they mine so the tailings dumped around the mines are toxic-which leach into the water.
* The tailings that typically come along with drilling and mining and the damage they do to the environment and the long-term scarring to the land that these sites would leave for years to come. To this day you can see the ugly effects of exploratory chalk mining in the area which was dug over fifty years ago

I would think the US Forest Service and California Department of Fish and Wildlife would strongly oppose this exploratory drilling as well to keep the Sierra Nevada’s pristine and uncontaminated and protect the tourism within the area.

I appreciate any help you can provide in opposing this exploratory mining.

Thank you,

Marjorie Betz