

BEARTOOTH

RESOURCE CONSERVATION AND DEVELOPMENT AREA, INC.

East Boulder Mine Amendment 004 EIS
C/O Robert Grosvenor
Gardiner Ranger District
PO Box 5
Gardiner, MT 59030

July 26, 2023

Dear Mr. Grosvenor:

On behalf of Beartooth Resource Conservation and Development, I am writing to express our support for the continued operation of the East Boulder Stillwater Mine.

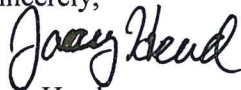
Beartooth RC&D serves a 5-county region of Big Horn, Carbon, Stillwater, Sweet Grass, and Yellowstone counties, and we work to not only maintain and conserve our state's beautiful natural resources but also to grow economic development. The East Boulder Mine is an absolute staple of Montana's economy, providing thousands of jobs and billions of dollars to the economy. Closure of the mine would be a detriment to the many mine workers as well as the multitude of businesses supported by the part they play in our economy.

Beartooth RC&D applauds the fact that the Stillwater Mining Company has spent decades mining in a responsible and sustainable manner. In fact, their standards *exceed* state and federal standards. Their Good Neighbor Agreement ensures that they continue to do everything possible to nurture the positive relationships they have developed over many years with property owners near the mine. We support their proposal for new tailings and waste rock storage facilities at the East Boulder Mine.

A big part of Stillwater Mine's production is the mining of PGMs, which are identified as "critical minerals" by the US Geological Survey. The East Boulder Mine is the sole source in the United States where some of these minerals can be found. Closing the mine would have impacts that go far beyond Montana and have a crippling effect on our country's supply chain.

Due to all these reasons and many more, we at Beartooth RC&D strongly urge you to grant EIS Amendment 004 to Stillwater Mine. The mine is a critical part of the economy in our region, our state, and our country. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Jacy Head
Economic Development Director

Gardiner Ranger District
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Custer Gallatin National Forest 



128 So. Main St.
P. O. Box 180
Joliet, MT
59041

PHONE 406-962-3914
FAX 406-962-3647
WEBSITE www.Beartooth.org