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Organization:

Title:

Comments: Representing my family of homeowners in the region, we are vehemently opposed to this mining venture by Kore Mining. So many variables go unnoticed in such a project, from environmental impacts to legal wrangling in the courts.

This area is pristine in its entirety, providing immeasurable opportunity for world class fly fishing, hunting, and nature observation. This area is critical to migrating animals, both hoofed and winged. Additionally, any runoff from the higher elevated prospect of this mining venture would most assuredly dump chemicals into the waters of Hot Creek. By allowing mining to occur, a disruption of the ecosystem would most likely be catastrophic.

In browsing the proposal, and its' history, I find some flaws, one of which stands out the most being the "restoration" on the impacted area. Having written grants for Off-Highway Vehicle programs, I am well aware of the total impacts by heavy equipment and vehicles. I know the generally accepted expectation of vegetation regeneration is roughly 20 years, the main reason for implementation of "Tread Lightly" programs, and enforcement of laws pertaining to the protection of natural fauna. The sprinkling of a USFS approved seed mix just won't address the long term destruction.

This process, while supposedly "exploratory" at this point, needs to be stopped now. If Kore is allowed its foot in the door for testing (which according to the report has already been done by previous rights owners), we can rest assured that they will stop at nothing to move forward with the project. This will wind up be a financial drain on resources from neighboring towns, cities and counties fighting to stop the project. It will be a drain on local Law Enforcement resources, who will undoubtedly be required to address a multitude of issues from protests to traffic mitigation. I would direct you to CEMEX vs. the City of Santa Clarita for how contentious and costly mining issues are.

There needs to be a balance in the protection of our natural areas and their uses. Mining goes completely against all logic relating to protection. This project cannot go forward.

Attachment: JPG of "Open Pit and Heap Leach" mining