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Organization:

Title:

Comments: My name is Brian Bateman and I am a partner in Hot Creek Ranch, located just northeast of Mammoth Yosemite Airport. I have been informed that a mining company by the name of Kore USA Ltd. has submitted a proposal to conduct mineral exploration activities in the pristine Eastern Sierra near our fishing ranch. I have read the proposal and their description of the ground disturbing activities they would conduct over the course of a year and it's nothing short of outrageous: employment of heavy drilling equipment, fourteen drill pads, as many as 42 core borings, container trucks and equipment over temporary access roads, drill cuttings and mud disposal. What's even more shocking is that this destructive action could get pushed through without environmental review under a categorical exclusion that I understand goes back to 1872.

Kore Mining's proposal leaves so many unanswered questions:

?Mining requires water. Where will the water come from?

?How much water will be required?

?How deep do they plan to core and at what angle and direction?

?Will Kore's drilling disrupt an aquifer under their proposed site?

?What route would trucks and equipment take?

?How much dust in the air will be kicked up?

?What decimal level of noise will Kore's trucks and equipment generate?

?How will this affect wildlife in the area?

Two things are certain 1) with fencing, large equipment and trucks in the proposed area, this will definitely be an eyesore to a now beautiful Eastern Sierra landscape and, 2) there will be environmental damage just going by Kore's own description of the project's activities. How could this even be considered without first conducting an Environmental Impact Study?

For more than 70 years Hot Creek Fly Fishing Ranch has been a retreat for our guests to come and enjoy the beautiful scenery, quiet environment and abundant wildlife. I can only imagine how every aspect of our guest's experience will be negatively affected if this project is allowed to go forward.

I urge the USDA/Forest Service to outright reject this project or, at the very least, require an environmental assessment before any equipment starts tearing up the land.

Thank you for your review and consideration.

Brian Bateman