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Comments: We are writing this letter in response to the USFS' intention to consider the western half of the Gallinas Mountains, Lincoln County, New Mexico for designation as a Wilderness area. At the present time Tierra Rara Minerals, LLP, formerly Strategic Resources, Inc., still retains 11 lode claims within this area and are paying the required fees to the BLM in Santa Fe the week of August 17-21, 2015. As well, the required Notice of Intent to Hold will be filed at the Lincoln County Assessor's Office during the week of August 17-21. Therefore, we are still actively engaged in exploration for rare earth minerals at the present time and plan to be into the foreseeable future.

It appears to us that the consideration of a wilderness designation covering the western half of the Gallinas Mountains is premature.

Numerous scientific papers have been written which highlight the rare earth mineral potential of the Gallinas Mountains. America needs to develop a strategic supply of rare earth minerals as a hedge against the monopoly that China currently enjoys. Currently, China controls the price and supply chain of rare earth minerals which are essential for a modern technological society.

Surface drilling conducted on the claims by Strategic Resources intercepted ore-grade intervals of rare earth mineralization in a carbonate and silica cemented explosive volcanic breccia. This is compatible with the description of the mineralization identified in the past when this area hosted lode claims known as the M&E claims. It was the success of the M&E claims that prompted Russell Schreiner of the US Bureau of Mines to more thoroughly study the area in his 1991 report. Rare earth occurrences are usually associated with fluorite minerals and sourced from carbonatite magma at depth. Moly Corp, currently the only rare earth mineral producer in the USA, drilled the area in the 1980s to a depth of 900 feet in search of carbonatite magma. They did intercept rare earth mineral mineralization at depth. At the time Moly Corp was also investigating the rare earth mineralization at Pajarito Mountain under a time-limited engagement with the Mescalero Apache people. Virginia McLemore describes the occurrences of rare earth mineralization associated with fluorite in laccolith intrusions as a belt extending from Mexico to Alaska along a hinge line that marks the western edge of the North American Tectonic Plate. This hinge line passes through several areas of New Mexico including Capitan Mountain, Pajarito, Gallinas, and continues through Colorado as the Colorado Mineral Belt. This hinge line also includes the new discovery by Texas Rare Earth Minerals in Sierra Blanca, west Texas, and Lemhi Pass Wyoming where Rare Element Resources has pushed their project to the environmental impact stage with the US Forest Service.

Virginia McLemore a professor at NM Tech stated in her preliminary conclusions, that the Gallinas Mountains contain "resources amount to at least 537 short tons of 2.95% total REE (not 43-101 compliant; Jackson and Christiansen 1993; Schreiner, 1993). Drilling is required identify a better resource estimate", McLemore, 2010, p. 52.

In summary, the Gallinas Mountains are on trend with other rare earth mineable occurrences. The area has a history of rare earth mineral production in the past and we feel deserves a closer evaluation before being excluded from exploration.

Sincerely, Anthony Kovschak

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