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Comments:

Any revisions to the rules that are intended to accelerate prospecting, exploration, development, mining, and processing operations conducted on National Forest System lands must take into consideration the climate implications of said actions. This includes both the impacts on forest health ("Will this reduce the ability of the land to sequester carbon?") and the impact of the mineral operations and end uses ("What is the carbon footprint of the operation? What is the carbon footprint of the end use of the mineral?").

These climate considerations must be taken into account because a broad and well-established body of scientific evidence indicates that anthropogenic global warming is leading to tremendous negative impacts on health, economy, and environment, which ultimately pose a threat to national security. Accelerated and sustained mineral access is being described as an important aspect of national security; however, mitigating the remarkable harms to public lands and the public generally caused by anthropogenic climate change is also an important national security consideration.

To that end, I have included a copy of the recent IPCC report on the subject, "Global Warming of 1.5 C," as an attachment. More information is available at: <http://www.ipcc.ch/report/sr15/>.

I am concerned that the proposed rulemaking will have an adverse climate impact. I am especially concerned about climate impacts as the father of a young child, and as an adult who is concerned about the future of many young people whose lives will be impacted by climate change. Please take the climate impact of any and all mineral operations, and other operations on USDA Forest Service land, into account.