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Organization:

Title:

Comments: I believe this project proposal will cause serious and irreparable damage to delicate and rare ecosystems, namely the multiple fens in the valley. Creating new roads will alter the hydrology of the wetlands and could destroy fens not directly under the roads. Numerous rare plants depend on these irreplaceable wetlands. In addition, the area is prime habitat for the state endangered boreal toad. While no toads have been found in the proposed areas to my knowledge, this is not sufficient proof that they are not in the areas, as I know the toads have been seen nearby and the habitat is nearly identical. Finally, the impact of increased sediment load in the homestake creek is not worth the risk it poses to the plants, fish, and other wildlife that rely on these wetlands. Based on these impacts, please do not allow new roads and drilling to occur in the Homestake Valley.