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Comments: As an Idaho native who has lived in proximity of and travelled extensively through mining prospects throughout Colorado and Utah, I can say that unequivocally, the damages caused by all mining operations far outweighs the benefits that may be speculated. As is ongoing in Alaska today, the ecological impacts of commercial mining are profound. There is no such thing as "ecologically sound" mining. These operations lay waste to the local ecology. Moreover, we must take into account the recent geological activity in the region. As you are no doubt aware, there have been hundreds of recorded earthquakes in the region. This destabilized state puts both humans and the environment at risk and the last thing we should be doing is destabilizing the ground further as occurs with mining activities. This is a much larger health and human safety issue and highlights the unpredictability of the earth and should discourage consideration of such operations at least during this time.