Data Submitted (UTC 11): 11/10/2020 7:00:00 AM
First name: Jill
Last name: Markey
Organization:
Title:
Comments: I am writing to express my concerns about the request by the Ouray Silver Mines, Inc. (OSMI) to lease 152 acres of locatable minerals under lands managed by the National Forest System for the purpose of connecting "OSMI's patented claims to OSMI's Revenue Tunnel, providing access to silver, gold, copper, lead, and zinc mineral deposits in OSMI's patented claims".

The proposed project is located near Camp Bird Road (CR 361) to the west of Ouray, Colorado. These lands lie in the high alpine setting with a sensitive alpine tundra ecosystem and diverse flora and fauna. While "no post-leasing surface disturbance is anticipated on NFS lands as part of this proposed leasing action", I am concerned about the potential stream contamination and the degradation of the natural environment from the proposed expansion along with the negative effects on recreation not only from the transportation of mining equipment and mining material but also from diminished biodiversity.

Please consider the following impacts: noise, vibration, dust, disturbance of wildlife habitat, and road impact.

I am also concerned about the future burden on the taxpayers for the cleanup in the current absence of adequate funding mechanism by the mines.

Thank you for providing an opportunity to comment. I am looking forward to hearing from you regarding the findings from the environmental assessment.