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Comments: I strongly oppose the proposed Long Valley Exploration Drilling Project. I believe this project potentially can result in the destruction and modification of unique geologic features in the area leading to long term detrimental effects to the environment despite the plan to "recontour to approximate original landforms." The creation of drilling pads will create major erosion hazards and drilling of the core borings will create increased exposure to severe noise levels and light pollution as well as deteriorates air quality with dust and fumes that can disturb animals and humans. It also can result in changes to the diversity and numbers of plants leading to the deterioration of existing wildlife habitat and potentially causing wildlife such as the Bi-State Sage Grouse to drop below self sustaining levels. The utilization of container trucks will generate substantial vehicular movement, impact upon existing transportation systems and cause increasing traffic hazards that may adversely affect tourism to Mammoth Lakes. The project also does not address the potential for increase in utilization of our natural resources or the substantial depletion of any nonrenewable resources that are needed for drilling such as water. I am also concerned that the project has the potential to cause contamination to surface and groundwater, particularly potentially exposing Hot Creek to hazardous waste fluids from drilling that may not be appropriately discharged or if there is an accidental release. With any engineering plans for drilling, the potential for catastrophic events that may occur during construction and operation of drilling is extremely concerning especially since it may affect the wild trout that live in Hot Creek or other animals that utilize it as a water source and the livelihood of the fishing community. Although not well studied, exploitation of the environment in geothermal areas could lead to emission of gases from fumaroles that could be toxic or even lethal to humans and animals. This "short term mineral investigation" has long term impacts and puts at risk the natural beauty and wildlife of Long Valley. It also adversely affects the quality of recreational activities for fly fishers, trail runners, hunters, campers and visitors who enjoy Long Valley for its pristine scenery and access to Hot Creek. The Long Valley Exploration Drilling Project does not have an appropriate environmental assessment plan in place. I respectfully request you stop this proposed project to protect the land for the public that you serve. Thank you for your time.