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Comments: I'm commenting in opposition of the proposed exploratory drilling in the native lands of the Nuumu people. I'm not naive; I understand mining is necessary and every prospective mining location will have drawbacks. I would ask that those reading this also not be naive and acknowledge that the purpose of industrial mining in the United States is never simply to meet the mineral needs of the citizens. Mining companies mine to make money with very little concern for indigenous sovereignty, the environment, ecosystems, local hydrological systems, or preserving the sites of interest.

I have spent a lot of time near Crowley Lake and in the surrounding area. The region of interest hosts one-of-a-kind geological formations, hydrothermal systems and their associated extremophilic organisms and unparalleled opportunities for recreation and education and serves as a habitat and migratory ground for multiple at-risk species, including the Sierra Nevada yellow-legged frog, bi-state sage grouse, and mule deer.

There is simply not enough water in this area to support exploratory mining, much less the open pit mine that KORE Mining hopes will follow. The lack of details in the mining proposal regarding the water source and waste management is frankly absurd.

It is also absurd that the forest service doesn't have the ability to deny mining projects once owners have staked a mineral claim. The fact that mining corporations have the near-unchecked ability to create a mess of the landscape in search of minerals is abhorrent. This absence of any sort of checks or balances serves as a perfect case study of the inherent problems in our current plutocratic, corporatocratic system.

The rich will get richer, the poor will get poorer, the rightful owners of the land will suffer, and the land itself will be degraded for centuries. Nothing good can come of this exploratory drilling unless you are the CEO of a mining company or are in the pocket of the mining industry. The rest of us will continue to post futile comments in opposition on community boards and suffer the consequences.