

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 4/29/2021 4:13:46 PM

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Comments: While the "Long Valley Exploration Drilling Project #59294" might seem like an attractive idea on paper... I urge each of you directly involved with this project to take a little road trip up Highway 395. Make the right onto State Route 270 and go and visit the ghost town known as Bodie.

Walk the hills. Look upon the scars and holes in the land. Take in what's left of the abandoned town and the decaying piles of industrial waste abandoned for all time. Look at every board and beam and nail. Examine every piece of glass, tin and scrap metal left behind. Everything, all of it, had to be brought in by railroad, mule and wagon. Go talk with the rangers, and listen to the stories of the hardship, failure, and lives ruined all in the hunt for gold.

Walk amongst the gravestones on the edge of town and have an honest conversation with yourselves. Do you really think you can mine for gold in the Eastern Sierra any better today? Are you more determined than the hardy 10,000+ people who came together during Bodie's hay day? Those brilliant, hardworking miners backed by an entire town still couldn't make it sustainable. After 40+ years of trying, they simply walked away.

Our region is littered with similar tales. Generations of people who came here convinced they could extract the gold, the silver, and the tungsten. Chop down the trees. Build roads and trails to these mines and camps without consequences. Their oversized attempts to take from this land have all dried up and failed. Coming here to extract from these mountains will always be a folly.

I'm asking all of you to reconsider and to take a step back from Hot Creek. Or better yet, take a gondola to the top of Mammoth Mountain and see everything that surrounds your purposed project. Keep in mind how all of this would be affected for generations beyond yours if you open pit mine here.

Go sit in a geothermal hot spring over the hill from your purposed site, go walk the banks of Hot Creek with a fly rod in your hand. See where Hot Creek meets the Owens River. Witness a full moon rise over the Glass and White Mountains sometime. Please go and experience all of it firsthand. While you may have located some gold in the ground here... We all know the real gold in the Sierra has fins and swims or falls from the sky by the foot every single winter.

Please take the time to listen and meet with the people who truly love this place. Go and experience all this land has to offer before putting one more shovel or drill bit into this ground.

Respectfully,

SW