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Comments: I urge you to reject the proposed Kore Mining project. in Mono County near Hot Creek and the Owens River. I am both a professional geologist with experience in minerals exploration and mining, and an avid fly fisher having fished the eastern Sierra my whole life. Because of its proximity to Hot Creek, the characteristics of the bedrock in the area, and the nature of exploration drilling and the proposed mining and ore processing techniques planned for this project, I am extremely concerned that the drilling and leaching of ore threatens the local ecosystem, and in particular the water quality and wild fish populations in Hot Creek and the Owens River.

Hot Creek is widely recognized as a world-class wild trout fishery with some of the greatest documented populations densities of wild trout in America. These wild fish are extremely sensitive to water quality. Allowing exploration drilling and mining/processing ore so close to Hot Creek and the Owens, and directly upslope of Hot Creek itself, and in the highly fractured and impermeable Bishop Tuff bedrock, is likely to result in contamination, increased turbidity, water temperature changes, and airborne dust that threatens these waters and the wild fish that populate them.

An important cultural resource for many decades, Hot Creek Ranch is world renowned for both its challenging dry fly fishing and its beautiful, untouched scenery. The Ranch is very close to the proposed mining operations, and is seriously threatened by this project. In April of this year, the California Department of Fish and Wildlife recognized the value of the Ranch and Hot Creek by reaffirming restrictive and special protection for angling in its statewide restructuring of inland fishing. Through such wise management and protection policies, Hot Creek has been sustained as one of the last great fishing in the United States. As a wild fish destination and recreation magnet, Hot Creek contributes greatly to the local economy and to the general enjoyment of visitors to the region.

The threats posed by drilling, water use and contamination, the increase in dust from mining and milling ore, and the environmental hazard of processing that ore and managing the waste rock is wildly incompatible with this area, and risks the degradation or destruction of Hot Creek and its fishery for the sole purpose of enriching a Canadian mining company who does not contribute to or support the quality of this region. I join so many others to ask that you please make the right decision and stop the Kore Mining project and commit to protecting this region from future mining and other environmentally threatening activities.

I am available to discuss my concerns further at your convenience.