

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 5/8/2021 6:20:32 AM

First name: Gregory

Last name: Reis

Organization:

Title:

Comments: The only reason for exploration is to develop a mine if sufficient quantities of gold are found, therefore it makes no sense to allow exploration if the eventual mine would be denied. An EIS should be conducted on the full mining operation, since piecemealing the proposal into separate exploration and mining projects is a flawed approach that ignores the connectedness of the two projects.

Gold mining should be banned until safe methods of mining and processing ore can be developed. The prevailing gold mining methods have tremendous potential for damaging and harmful effects. Banning those effects essentially bans those methods, which bans the mining, and should ban the exploration. Starting down the road to a harmful activity makes no sense if the ultimate project would be harmful.

Around 20 years ago a similar project was proposed in this area, and Mono County passed a mining ordinance giving it permitting authority over such projects. This was important because the County has a duty to protect the health, safety, and welfare of its citizens, and thus has a duty to reject harmful mining proposals. The Forest Service should also protect the resources at stake--water, soil, vegetation, fish, wildlife, air quality, and noise and light pollution-sensitive resources.