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Comments: I am Robert Carlson and have been traveling to the Mammoth Lakes/ Hot Creek Ranch area annually for over fifteen years. The area draws us back every year because of the natural beauty, serenity, fly fishing, and other outdoor activities. The proposed KORE Mining exploration and potential mine threatens the very reasons that the Mammoth Lakes area is such a major tourism destination.

That this would be permitted with a Categorical Exemption and without a formal environmental impact analysis and report and without meaningful public input is simply outrageous.

While I am not an expert in mining, there are numerous issues that must be directly addressed prior to the issuance of any permits. Where is the water to support the drilling and mining operation going to come from?

Who is the scarce water to be taken from? Where will the runoff and mud go? Will the runoff endanger the safety of the ground water and pollute the surrounding creeks, rivers, and lakes? What about the impact on wildlife, especially the sage grouse? What about the disruption to the natural beauty of the Mammoth Lakes/Hot Creek area? Noise pollution?

In short, there is no compelling rationale for the approval of a Categorical Exemption for the proposed exploration by KORE Mining. Rather, the disruption to our precious natural resources and environment are likely to be devastating for years to come if the exemption is approved. A formal environmental impact report and consideration of the environmental impact is essential.