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Comments: Our Eastern Sierra succeeds and depends on spectacular natural lands and pristine environments that facilitate world-class fishing, skiing, hiking, rock-climbing, kayaking, birding, OHV, thermal pools and outdoor activities galore for locals and tourists. Our economy depends primarily on visitors. Escaping their concrete jungle and their mega congestion is necessary for city folks. They depend on our pristine environment to revitalize. Our Mono County Motto, "Wild by Nature", beckons to people world wide.

If You, our US Forest Service, allow Kore Mining to begin building 14 drill sites/pads without a "Categorical Exclusion", it would threaten everything that sustains our tourism based economy. While the Kore Mining site is not in Mammoth Lakes, it is in our front yard. I visited the Kore's 230 acre site and took photos of some of the drill sites. These 24/7 lighted drill sites would be visible from HW 395, MMH Airport as well as the road to the Hot Creek geothermal over-look. What would our visitors think about drill pads in the middle of the valley?

Allowing the Kore Mining Project to go forward without an environmental assessment flies in the face of what the Eastern Sierra stands for and is. Are drill pads consistent with "Wild by Nature"? Visitors sustain us; mining projects do not.