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First name: Elizabeth

Last name: Root

Organization:

Title:

Comments: Dear Inyo National Forest Service,

My name is Elizabeth Root, and I have lived in Mammoth Lakes since October 2014. As a resident of the area, I take pride in the natural landscapes that surround us and the unrivaled beauty that the Eastern Sierra holds.

I am disappointed to hear the beautiful Long Valley area in Mono County near Hot Creek lands and habitats are threatened by Kore Mining gold exploration and a possible future massive open pit cyanide heap leach mine.

Cultural lands and values, critically important Bi-state Sage Grouse habitats, valuable fishing and recreation uses and businesses, agricultural lands, and the beauty of Long Valley are all at risk. The vast mine that could result from "successful" gold exploration would be clearly visible from 395 and would be the most striking feature anyone landing at Mammoth Airport would see.

I strongly oppose to the project because of potential impacts to human health (i.e. dust, flood lights at night, noise), Indigenous homelands, local tourist-based economy, risks to Hot Creek from intercepting groundwater, and important wildlife such as Sage Grouse and Mule Deer.

Please consider the negative environmental, cultural, and economic ramifications of Long Valley Exploration Drilling Project #59294. I believe the irreversible impacts of this project would be detrimental for the future of the entire Eastern Sierra community.

Thank you,
Elizabeth Root