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Comments: Dear Ms Garcia

I believe the categorical exclusion is too narrow a designation for the exploratory drilling project proposed by Kore Mining. The Plan of Operations indicates that there are several sites that might also be explored in the future under a categorical exclusion. There should be a more extensive environmental analysis of all potential exploration sites.

This first site will be only an acre, according to the plan of operations. But the site is near populations of plants of concern. The site is also near bi-state sage grouse leks. The company cavalierly states it will take appropriate action for the plant species of concern but not the sage grouse, since that species has no special status. That implies an attitude that Kore Mining will do only what it has to do.

I also recommend that the USFS seek outside assistance in setting appropriate stipulations and bonding amounts and terms of release.