Data Submitted (UTC 11): 5/13/2021 7:00:03 PM First name: Kristal Last name: Watrous Organization:

Title:

Comments: As someone who enjoys and appreciates Inyo National Forest for its beauty and diversity, I oppose the categorical exclusion for the Kore Mining project. This project is being pitched as small and exploratory, but the impacts on the local area have not been fully assessed. I request that Kore Mining provide an environmental assessment prior to any possible exploration, as this area has known endemic organisms and would be substantially impacted by any digging that occurs. Mining exploration is far from minimal, and will not only impact aboveground resources and organisms, but could negatively impact the hydrology of the region. In an area that prides itself on beautiful, clear water for fishing and recreation, it is not worth allowing extractive companies to mine and destroy the land, leaving destruction and ruin in their wake. I urge the USFS to consider the long-term negative impacts of extractive processes, and protect our lands for long-term sustainability.