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First name: Abby

Last name: Popenoe

Organization:

Title:

Comments: To whom it may concern,

I am writing to express my opposition to the Long Valley Exploration Drilling Project proposed by Kore Mining. I have been a resident of the Eastern Sierra for the past three years and am severely concerned about the impacts this project would have on the communities, land, and wildlife of my home.

By disturbing the land and wildlife of Long Valley, the project proposed by Kore Mining would severely alter a critical and unique part of this region. I have spent much time visiting Long Valley for recreation and know firsthand that the area is a vital aspect of the region's recreation-based economy. As a local resident I see on a daily basis how critical maintaining outdoor recreation opportunities are to the livelihoods of those who live here. Kore Mining's exploration would immediately damage recreation opportunities in the region, putting more stress on the already fragile local economy.

Further, the wildlife of the Eastern Sierra is critical to maintaining the ecological health and biodiversity of this special region. Species such as already endangered Sage Grouse and Mule Deer would face intense threats from the proposed project. With our wildlife already facing so many threats, these species cannot afford more danger.

In addition to my opposition to the project as a whole, I am particularly concerned about the use of a Categorical Exclusion (CE). I fully oppose the use of a CE, and request that the Forest Service requires an Environmental Assessment as the minimum level of environmental analysis. The Long Valley Exploration Drilling Project is already facing extraordinary levels of opposition, and more opportunities for public participation, in addition to in-depth environmental analysis, are vital to ensure that the community is properly involved in this process.

Sincerely,

Abby Popenoe  
Bishop, CA