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Title:

Comments: We have a cabin on 40 acres on the East Boulder river about 2 miles past the Main Bridge. We have been there since 1969. Since the current mine became active I have seen a detrimental change in the health of the river. When I was younger I saw water insects active in the water underneath rocks in the river. Those insects are gone now or appear rarely. When I was at the meeting at the Big Timber Library I heard from a spokesman representing the mine that water quality has been protected since the mine was operational. It has not. Now, with your proposed expansion, how much will the health of the East Boulder water suffer? Will the insects that now appear rarely disappear completely?

When I was younger we could sit on our porch and listen to nature for hours. Since the mine opened that is no longer possible. When I was there in June I heard a tractor trailer use a Jake brake coming down a slope at 8:00 am. That noise could be heard throughout the valley. How much more noise will there be after the expansion? When I pull out from my access road, the chances of a mine vehicle accident with my car seem high now compared to before the mine. How much will they increase after the expansion?

There was much discussion about the failure of the tailings dam at the Big Timber meeting. The analysts measure risk by speaking in terms of frequency per 100 years but the news is constantly announcing 100-year storms that occur much more frequently than 100 years. Given recent extreme weather events, I want analysts to think about how will this affect my children and their children. Who will hold these analysts accountable for a study or a review that disregards weather trends or random events like an earthquake? How can we be sure that a study or a report that the Forest Service uses will be unbiased?

In my experience, the mine has decreased the quality of life as measured by the health of the river, the traffic noise, and the risk of an accident. How much will the quality of life at my cabin be lowered for me, and the generations after me?