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Organization:

Title:

Comments: In Support of Protecting Our Land and Water from Mining - A Local Landowner's Perspective

Dear Responsible Project Official,

As a landowner with property adjacent to the Rapid Creek, I am writing in support of the USDA Forest Service's application to withdraw the mentioned National Forest System lands from settlement, sale, location, entry, and leasing under public land, mining, mineral, and geothermal leasing laws.

Research shows and facts indicate the potential negative consequences of gold mining in areas such as ours, including:

1. Water contamination: The hazardous chemicals used in mining, such as cyanide and heavy metals, can infiltrate the lake and the creek, posing risks to human health and the environment.
2. Soil erosion and sedimentation: Mining operations can cause soil erosion and sedimentation, negatively impacting water quality, aquatic habitats, and the stability of the creek banks.
3. Habitat destruction and fragmentation: Mining can result in the loss of habitats for many plant and animal species, leading to a decline in biodiversity and local extinction of sensitive species.
4. Noise and air pollution: Mining operations generate noise and dust, negatively impacting the quality of life for residents living along the creek and causing potential health issues.
5. Social and economic impacts: While mining may bring short-term economic benefits, these are often offset by potential negative impacts on the environment, public health, and quality of life.

Based on these findings, I firmly believe that prioritizing the long-term health and well-being of the local community and the environment is crucial. Protecting the Rapid Creek Watershed area from mining activities is essential to preserving the natural beauty, safe drinking water, ecological balance, and quality of life for those of us who call this place home.

I encourage the responsible officials to consider the withdrawal application and protect our land and water for future generations.

Sincerely,

Aaron Ellison