Data Submitted (UTC 11): 6/7/2023 1:09:06 PM First name: Evelyn Last name: Racette Organization: Title: Comments: Dear Forest Service-

I am writing to express my deep concerns and opposition to the proposed Golden Crest Mining Project, as detailed in the recent article on the BH Clean Water Alliance website. As an engaged community member who values the preservation of our environment, I believe it is crucial to voice our concerns about the potential detrimental impact of this project on our local ecosystem and the well-being of our community.

Firstly, the proposed mining project threatens our precious water resources. According to the article, the Golden Crest Mining Project involves the extraction of minerals in close proximity to our local water sources. This poses an imminent risk of water contamination, which could have severe consequences for both human and environmental health. Our community relies heavily on these water sources for drinking, agriculture, and recreational purposes, and any compromise in their quality could have devastating, long-lasting effects on our community's well-being.

Moreover, the potential destruction of habitats and ecosystems resulting from mining activities cannot be overlooked. Our region is home to diverse wildlife and delicate ecosystems that must be protected. The article highlights the likelihood of irreversible damage to the local flora and fauna, including endangered species that are already facing numerous challenges. By allowing the Golden Crest Mining Project to proceed, we would be sacrificing these invaluable natural treasures that provide ecological balance and enrich our community.

Furthermore, the increased traffic, noise, and air pollution associated with the mining project would disrupt the tranquility and serenity of our community. The influx of heavy machinery, trucks, and other equipment required for mining operations would create a significant disturbance in our daily lives. The adverse effects on air quality could lead to respiratory problems for community members, especially vulnerable populations such as children, the elderly, and those with pre-existing health conditions.

I strongly urge you to consider alternative, sustainable solutions that prioritize the long-term health and well-being of our community and environment. Rather than pursuing short-term economic gains at the expense of our natural resources, we should focus on developing industries and initiatives that promote environmental stewardship, renewable energy, and sustainable economic growth. By doing so, we can protect our environment for future generations while simultaneously fostering the prosperity and resilience of our community.

In light of the aforementioned concerns, I respectfully request that you carefully reconsider the approval of the Golden Crest Mining Project. I implore you to engage in a transparent and inclusive dialogue with community members and environmental experts to explore alternative approaches that preserve our natural resources and promote sustainable development.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. I trust that you will give serious consideration to the voices of community members who are deeply concerned about the potential ramifications of the Golden Crest Mining Project. I look forward to hearing about your commitment to safeguarding our environment and preserving the quality of life in our community. Yours sincerely,

Evelyn Racette