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First name: Timothy

Last name: Racette

Organization:

Title:

Comments: Dear Forest Service

I am writing to express my strong opposition to the proposed Golden Crest Mining Project. As an avid mountain biker who actively participates in trail maintenance and as a parent who values spending quality time outdoors with my daughter, I believe that this project poses a significant threat to the recreational areas within the national forest and the well-being of our community.

I am deeply concerned about the potential consequences associated with the Golden Crest Mining Project. I would like to highlight the additional reasons why I oppose this project and emphasize the importance of preserving the recreational areas within our national forest:

**Recreation in National Forest:** The national forest is not only an invaluable natural resource but also a cherished recreational area for our community. Countless individuals, like myself, rely on these forested lands for various recreational activities, including mountain biking, hiking, and trail maintenance. These activities promote physical and mental well-being, foster a sense of community, and contribute to the overall quality of life for residents and visitors alike.

**Ecological Impact:** The Golden Crest Mining Project's potential environmental damage would extend beyond water contamination, as previously discussed. The project's disruptive activities, such as clearing land, constructing roads, and establishing mining infrastructure, would harm the natural ecosystem, jeopardizing wildlife habitats, disturbing delicate ecological balances, and diminishing the overall health of the forest.

**Negative Effects on Recreation:** The implementation of the Golden Crest Mining Project would have a detrimental impact on recreational activities within the national forest. The construction of mining infrastructure, increased vehicular traffic, and noise pollution would significantly disrupt the tranquility and natural beauty that draw outdoor enthusiasts like myself to these areas. This degradation would not only diminish the recreational experience but also deter visitors, affecting tourism revenue and local businesses that rely on outdoor recreation.

**Future Generations:** As a parent, I recognize the importance of preserving these natural areas for future generations to enjoy. It is crucial to provide our children with opportunities to explore and connect with nature, fostering an appreciation for the environment and promoting environmental stewardship. The Golden Crest Mining Project threatens this legacy, depriving future generations of the beauty and benefits of the national forest.

Considering the detrimental impact of the proposed mining project on both the environment and our community's recreational opportunities, I strongly urge you to reconsider and halt the Golden Crest Mining Project. Instead, I encourage you to explore alternative approaches that prioritize the preservation and sustainable management of our natural resources.

I kindly request that you take my opposition, as well as the concerns of countless others who cherish the recreational areas within the national forest, into account. I implore you to ensure that this letter reaches relevant decision-makers and regulatory bodies involved in the approval process for the Golden Crest Mining Project.

Thank you for your attention to this critical matter. I trust that you will carefully consider the potential consequences of the Golden Crest Mining Project and take appropriate action to safeguard our recreational areas, preserve the natural environment, and prioritize the well-being of our community and future generations.

Sincerely,

Tim Racette