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Comments:
I have read the Golden Crest Exploration Drilling Project Draft Environmental Assessment and I ask that Solitario's proposed Plan of Operations is NOT approved without a full Environmental Impact Statement. An EIS is needed in order to thoroughly examine the potential impact of the proposed project on groundwater, recreation, wildlife, and the local community. The severity of potential negative impacts on these resources should not be underestimated.

I understand that drill sites are located in areas that were previously constructed for logging activities. Logging activities, taking place on the surface, do not disturb the subsurface and do not have the potential to affect vital aquifers. Therefore, the proposed action is unique and an EIS is warranted in order to avoid any undesirable effects that can not be currently known without further analysis.

Although no actual mining or processing of mining products will occur with THIS project, it is obvious that the purpose of exploration is to find minerals to be mined. It can reasonably be assumed that this project will lead to requests for mining operations in the near future. An EIS should be prepared in order to assess the cumulative impacts of the project and its foreseeable future development in the project area.

Thank you for the diligent and hard work you do managing our public lands.