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First name: Laura

Last name: Piening

Organization:

Title:

Comments: It is time to stop putting development and corporate interests ahead of people and nature. The area under consideration is used by hundreds of people for recreation. The project would include 12 drill sites and up to 48 drill holes and would operate 24 hours a day. It is vital that we maintain natural areas. Historically, gold mining has been extremely polluting to the surrounding area.

At the least, the Forest Service should do a full Environment Impact Statement on the project, not just a brief EA. All cumulative impacts should be considered including a trend toward more and more mining in the area.

Again, I ask the Service to halt the continuing attack on the natural world. This is not a neutral project; gold mining is invasive and hurtful to the area.