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Comments: I strongly oppose the Golden Crest Project for several compelling reasons. Firstly, the proposed exploration drilling in this natural area undoubtedly poses a significant threat to the delicate ecosystems thriving in these hills. Big Hill serves as a cherished gathering place for community members, families, and friends, who come together to appreciate and partake in various activities. I fail to perceive any substantial benefits that mining in this area would offer, as the potential risks far outweigh any potential gains.

Mining in this natural area poses several potential risks, including:

Disruption of ecosystems: Exploratory drilling and mining can lead to the destruction and disturbance of delicate ecosystems. This can have a detrimental impact on the plants, animals, and other organisms that rely on the natural area for their survival.

Habitat destruction: Mining activities often involve clearing land, removing vegetation, and altering the physical landscape. This can result in the loss of habitat for wildlife, leading to a decline in biodiversity.

Water pollution: Mining operations can contaminate water sources through the release of harmful chemicals and heavy metals. This pollution can have severe consequences for both aquatic ecosystems and the communities that depend on clean water for drinking and irrigation.

Air pollution: Mining activities can release dust, particulate matter, and other pollutants into the air, contributing to air pollution. This can have adverse effects on the respiratory health of nearby communities and wildlife.

Soil degradation: Mining can cause soil erosion and degradation, leading to the loss of fertile soil and making it difficult for vegetation to grow. This can further exacerbate the negative impacts on ecosystems and agricultural productivity.

Noise and vibration: Mining operations can generate excessive noise and vibrations, which can disrupt the natural behavior and habitats of wildlife. It can also disturb the peace and tranquility of nearby communities.

Social and cultural impacts: Mining projects can have significant social and cultural impacts on local communities. They can result in the displacement of communities, loss of traditional livelihoods, and changes in cultural practices and traditions.

Overall, the potential risks associated with mining in this natural area are significant and can have long-lasting negative impacts on the environment, ecosystems, and the well-being of both human and non-human communities. It is disheartening to need to protect these special places from outside companies trying to earn "a buck". The dream of one person is the nightmare of hundreds of others.