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Comments: To whom it may concern

We respectfully submit this statement against the proposed Why Not Stardust Project in Star Creek and Yaak River near Troy, Montana. Suction dredge mining degrades water quality and harms fish. More specifically, it causes erosion and sedimentation. It mobilizes mercury and other heavy metals. It impacts fish and the aquatic food web by destroying aquatic habitat, physically "processing" fish and aquatic life, creating fish stranding risks in dredging pools (where fish are restricted to poor habitat as a consequence of physical separation from a main body of water), and destroys riparian vegetation. Thank you for your consideration of this argument against the Why Not Stardust Project.