

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 10/24/2024 1:01:20 AM

First name: Kenneth C.

Last name: Grosso

Organization:

Title:

Comments: Based on the information I've been able to acquire regarding the withdrawal of all mining activities from the Rapid Creek Headwaters, I most definitely Approve This Withdrawal action.

It's well-known that mining is accompanied by considerable disturbance to the immediate vicinity of the excavation, including the building of roads to facilitate delivery of equipment, supplies and access to the site by miners and other personnel, plus for continuous streams of ore trucks that haul away loads of extracted material. Blasting is another category of disturbance associated with mining which sends clouds of dust and smoke upward to be caught and dispersed by the wind, to the detriment of surrounding areas. Also detrimental are shock waves incidental to blasting, whose effects cannot be predicted on surrounding geology and resident animal populations.

Uppermost in the local peoples' thoughts are the huge amounts of waste rock, mine tailings and waste water which will accumulate on and around the mine site. It's justifiably feared that toxic contaminants originating from these materials' exposure to rainwater and other sources will leach out and seep into the surrounding watershed to pollute potable waters consumed by every living human, animal and plant nearby to and also downstream of the source of contamination.

The destructive pollution of these presently pristine waters and watershed will be a catastrophe for an entire aboriginal culture which has existed for thousands of years and for an ecosystem which has been governed only by the rules of Nature for uncounted millennia, all for the sake of a questionably profitable extractive industry, whose existence will be temporary, at best.

The benefits of maintaining this region in its currently unpolluted, unspoiled and sustainably utilized state will go on, century after century; as long as the people who inhabit it, depend upon it for their livelihoods and wish to pass it on to their children have the will to keep it so. They ask that their water remains respected and unpolluted by ill-founded ventures.

This respect for this intact place of renewable natural is all the justification required for withdrawal of mining operations from the Rapid Creek Headwaters. I respectfully request that you expedite this withdrawal to the Secretary of the Department of the Interior.