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Comments: Hello,

I'm writing today stating my opposition to Pete Lien & Sons' proposed exploratory drilling project near Rochford. It's my opinion that the small monetary value obtained from extraction is not worth the impact, disruption, and very real risk posed by exploratory drilling and the subsequent mining upon discovery.

The maps provided show multiple drill locations quite near Castle Creek. Any potential contamination from this drilling would inevitably affect everything downstream, including Rapid Creek and Pactola Reservoir, and likely underground water sources as well. Because of that, I certainly don't believe this project qualifies for a Categorical Exclusion. I'm asking the Forest Service to conduct an Environmental Impact Statement before proceeding any further, in the interest of full transparency with the public.

Additionally, the documents mention that the project is "currently conducting tribal scoping." Due diligence must be done here, in regards to clear and active discussion with the Indigenous community. Without that, there is no truly responsible stewardship and protection of this rich and diverse ecosystem considered sacred by so many.

Thank you for reading, and for considering the opinion of those who would be affected by these projects.

Christopher Roth