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Comments: Greetings. I am a resident of Mono County, California. I enjoy recreating in the Bodie Hills. They are still wild and beautiful.

I write because I am concerned that the planned mining explorations could damage the health of the ecosystem. I am not against all mining ... I believe at times it has to be done. But I question whether gold mining is essential. I simply wonder if it is all about profit ... wreck the land for the sake of gold. Haven't we already done this in California?

Are we considering carefully the impact on the land and on the critters? Is this mining company actually concerned about the ecosystem? In the words of Aldo Leopold ""A thing is right when it tends to preserve the integrity, stability, and beauty of the biotic community. It is wrong when it tends otherwise."

My hope is that the USDA will assure that this is done well, carefully. Perhaps a full EIS should be done? Please do not let a mining company again wreck the land for the mighty dollar.