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Organization:

Title:

Comments: ?As a resident of Helena and an active user of our local public lands, I am writing to formally oppose Falcon Copper Corp.'s expanded Plan of Operations for the Blue Copper Project in the Snowshoe Creek drainage.

?There is a massive gulf between responsible public land use and the district-scale industrialization proposed by Falcon Copper. Upgrading this project from a categorically excluded 12-hole test to an aggressive operation featuring up to 127 drill pads, surface trenching, and the associated road networks is entirely incompatible with the health of this area.

?My opposition is grounded in the following environmental and procedural concerns:

?Severe Surface and Hydrological Disturbance: The steep terrain of the Blackfoot City Stock is highly vulnerable to erosion. Carving 127 drill pads into this landscape will inevitably alter surface runoff, increase sediment loads in Snowshoe Creek, and jeopardize downstream water quality.

?Cumulative Impacts of Infrastructure: It is incredibly difficult to truly mitigate the fragmentation caused by aggressive road building and land clearing. The sheer density of the proposed drilling grid will create lasting scars and disrupt local wildlife corridors in ways that cannot simply be "reclaimed" once the exploration phase concludes.

?Misuse of the FAST-41 Designation: While this project was recently added to the FAST-41 federal dashboard under the guise of securing domestic critical minerals, this designation must not serve as a blank check to bypass rigorous environmental scrutiny. The Forest Service must prioritize its multiple-use mandate and the long-term ecological integrity of the landscape over the speculative extraction goals of a single corporation.

?Given the drastic increase in scope from the initial August 2024 Decision Memo, an Environmental Assessment (EA) is insufficient. The cascading impacts of this expanded footprint on the local watershed, terrain stability, and recreational access demand a comprehensive Environmental Impact Statement (EIS).

?I urge the Forest Service to reject the expanded Plan of Operations and protect the Snowshoe Creek drainage from this scale of industrial exploitation.