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Comments: I strongly urge you to hold public hearings throughout the state AND to extend the public comment period. The proposal for the Blue Copper Project describes a massive endeavor on nearly 11,000 acres of public land. If implemented, it would have long lasting negative effects on the environment - water, land, air, and numerous species of plants and animals. The project sits entirely within the Little Blackfoot River watershed, and would affect already impaired creeks, riparian zones, and water extraction of up to 24,000 gallons a day. The project would also affect habitats for protected and beloved Montana species, including the grizzly bear, Canada lynx, wolverine, bull trout, white bark pine, and monarch butterfly.

I oppose this project. The life and health of our environment is precious. As I said above, this proposal must have hearings and an a greatly expanded time for review and input.