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First name: Michael and Wendy

Last name: Taffer

Organization:

Title:

Comments: I strongly oppose and object to the Blue Copper Project. This project has been forced down upon residents of the area with no or very little consideration. An example of this is the extreme rush to move forward with no public comments. When a meeting was scheduled it was believed no one would show up and only 30 seats were provided at the start of the meeting. This area, in my opinion was chosen due to the sparseness of population. History has shown that these projects devastate the sites and communities involved. Cleanup is left to those of us left behind in the wake.

The info is all one sided to the benefit of the Falcon Copper. This project immediately disrupts the life and welfare of not only the exploratory area but also the people who live within its boundaries.

Lois Lake is a 26-acre private waterbody owned by our family on Snowshoe Creek, within the Snowshoe Creek drainage. Our property of over 2000 acres, lies directly in the proposed Blue Copper Mineral Exploration Project area, which includes up to 127 drill pads, trenching, and extensive geophysical surveys across the surrounding watershed. Early project activity, including the posting of potential test sites, has already caused damage to our property.

Our land is currently protected by a conservation easement with Montana Land Reliance, reflecting our long-standing commitment to preserving the property's privacy, ecological integrity, and limited development for future generations. The scale and intensity of this project would fundamentally undermine those protections.

Snowshoe Creek is already listed as impaired due to sedimentation, nutrient loading, substrate alteration, and habitat loss. Additional disturbance from this project risks severe and irreversible harm to the creek, Lois Lake, and the water resources essential for our cattle operation and winter agricultural needs.

The project affects agricultural operations in several direct and indirect ways:

*Water availability and quality: The proposed withdrawal of up to 24,000 gallons of water per day, combined with increased sedimentation and nutrient loading, threatens both the quantity and quality of water available for livestock and irrigation. Impaired water can reduce herd health, limit usable supply, and increase costs for alternative sources or treatment.

*Impacts to winter operations: Your operation specifically depends on reliable local water sources to sustain cattle through winter months. Any degradation of Snowshoe Creek or Lois Lake could disrupt this critical seasonal support, putting livestock at risk during the most vulnerable time of year.

*Soil and pasture degradation: Drilling, trenching, and increased traffic in the watershed can lead to erosion, dust, and contamination that affect surrounding soils and forage quality. This can reduce grazing productivity and long-term land value.

*Reduced operational stability: Uncertainty around water reliability, environmental conditions, and access can make it harder to plan grazing rotations, herd size, and feed strategies, undermining the efficiency and resilience of your agricultural operation.

*Compliance and cost pressures: Deteriorating environmental conditions may trigger additional regulatory requirements or mitigation measures, increasing operational costs for ranching activities.

Overall, the project introduces risks that could compromise the sustainability, productivity, and economic viability of your agricultural operation.

Beyond our property, the project threatens long-term degradation of land, air, and critical habitats supporting diverse plant and animal species.

This project would further impact already stressed waterways and riparian zones, while drawing up to 24,000 gallons of water daily. It also puts at risk habitat for sensitive and iconic Montana species, including grizzly bear, Canada lynx, wolverine, bull trout, whitebark pine, and monarch butterfly.

Given these significant and far-reaching impacts, this project must be re-evaluated and subjected to a comprehensive Environmental Impact Statement.

This project is listed as exploratory is only a disguise to destroy the way of life in this Montana region.