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Hans Oaks c/o Helena Ranger District

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<https://cara.fs2c.usda.gov/Public/CommentInput?Project=303864> d

Dear Mr. Oaks,

I am writing to ask the United States Forest Service (USFS) and Falcon Copper to create an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the proposed exploration of the Blue Copper project. This proposed mine is located within the Little Blackfoot watershed, a beloved wild trout stream with substantial groundwater influences near to the project area. The site is also crossed by the Continental Divide Trail, and is adjacent to, or within, crucial habitat for native westslope cutthroat trout and many wildlife species that Montanans highly value. The current Environmental Assessment lacks significant information about potential risks to these resources.

Specifically I ask the USFS and Falcon Copper to:

- *Conduct an independent modeling of groundwater, including how drilling might impact groundwater, and ground-to-surface water connections.

- *Provide a more robust assurance that measures to prevent stormwater, especially historic rain-on-snow events (20-year or even 100-year events), will not result in sediment, drill fluids, or other potential contaminants entering streams.

- *Provide any information about the risk of creating acid mine drainage or releasing other toxins, such as arsenic, lead or mercury into ground or surface water.

Without answering these questions or providing this additional baseline data, the USFS should not permit this mining activity.

I graduated from Fergus High School in Lewistown, MT in 1973. From 1973-1978, I attended the University of Montana in Missoula, MT. During that time, I went back and forth on Highway 200 between Lewistown and Missoula. I still remember to this day the evidence of the pollution along Highway 200 caused by mine waste at Mike Horse Creek in the upper Blackfoot River drainage. No one wants a repeat of that kind of degradation, especially on the Little Blackfoot. I feel the steps I am asking for above will go a long way towards preventing another failed mining site.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

Sincerely,

Daniel D Short

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