

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 7/3/2026 1:54:52 AM

First name: Stephanie

Last name: Lewis

Organization:

Title:

Comments: Hans Oaks

c/o Helena Ranger District

2880 Skyway Dr.

Helena, Montana 59602

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

Dear Hans,

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.

We have seen impacts of mining activity throughout Montana and throughout the Helena and Lewis and Clark National Forest. We need to conduct an EIS and have an understanding of the impacts to our local watershed before approving this project. We have put so much work into restoration of this region to support the native aquatic species, we need to understand the direct impacts this mining activity will have before approving such work. The Little Blackfoot is such an important place to so many of us, it would be devastating to see major impacts to the system if mining activity was approved without a thorough investigation into the impacts. Please work with the Watershed Lab to fully understand the impacts this project will have before moving forward.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

Sincerely,

Stephanie Lewis