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First name: Mark

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Organization:

Title:

Comments: I am writing to you to let you and the USDA know of my opposition of the Sheep Creek mining proposal by US Critical Materials. I have been a Ravalli County resident of 47 years . I have seen the results of the Big Creek mine in Victor and

the other mining debacles of Montana and Idaho. A complete EIS of the proposed mine should be completed before any decision be made..A bad decision on the mine would cause severe consequences if any accidents or spills or airborne contamination were to happen.

All of us in Ravalli County and downstream in Montana,Idaho,Washington and Oregon would be affected.Our air, water,soil, property values, recreational opportunities, and jobs.The impact on jobs in the tourism, accommodations ,restaurants

and recreational outfitting would be hit hard,and to mention the affects on clean water for farm and ranch irrigation.

The proposed mine would also affect wildlife habitat, fisheries.

I have traveled and worked in many states and provinces in the log home industry in many beautiful locations but Montana and Alaska are truly the Last Best Places in North America.

In regards to US Critical Materials ,they do not have a track record of mining operations. Their owners and investors have come together from other mining endeavors with none of them commenting on past good experiences in mining.It also

appears the financial integrity of such a small company seems to lack the huge financial backing to cover bonds and reclamation just like all the bad outcomes of mines throughout Montana.I do not envy the position you are in to fast track this proposal but

when things are done hastily the outcome could be disastrous. I would not like to be in the position of owning the outcome of a bad decision. I would like you tithing about all the citizens this could affect who have chosen this part of the world to call this

home and hopefully you have also thought of this as Home.

Sincerely, Mark Behrman