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Comments: [External Email]

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Dear Forest Supervisor Matt Anderson and Ranger Dan Pliley,

Thank you for the opportunity to submit a public comment. It is not acceptable to give USCM the go-ahead to commence exploratory activities or mining without completing an Environmental Assessment. I'm writing to ask that the Bitterroot Forest Service requires

this step.

The proposed Sheep Creek mining project is expected to have adverse impacts to water quality and quantity in both the Bitterroot Valley and the Clark Fork River Valley downstream (where I live). Moreover, water is at a premium in the Bitterroot, and the available

water should be reserved for human consumption, wildlife, fisheries and agriculture.

Adverse impacts to wildlife are also anticipated. This project threatens critical habitat of sensitive, threatened, and endangered species, including fish species that are vital to Montana's culture and economy.

It is also likely that mining in the high elevation Sheep Creek Basin will release toxic levels chemicals into the environment, some of which may be virtually impossible to remediate, as we understand well in the Clark Fork drainage.

Please require USCM to submit a full environmental assessment with an associated public comment period.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Kara Cromwell

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