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First name: Jeanne
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Organization:
Title:
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Dear,
Please accept my comments regarding the Sheep Creek Rare Earth Exploration Project.
A ?Categorical Exclusion? (CE) is entirely inappropriate for a mining proposal of this magnitude and significance. At the very least, the U.S. Forest Service (USFS) must conduct an environmental review at the Environmental Analysis (EA) level.
The USFS must identify and address any impacts, or potential impacts, to the Blue Joint Wilderness Study Area, Frank Church-River of No Return Wilderness, and Allan Mountain Inventoried Roadless Area.
Mining and associated development, blasting, and noise would disrupt a prime grizzly bear recovery corridor. Since grizzly bears are a threatened species protected under the Endangered Species Act, the USFS must work with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
(USFWS) to identify and address any impacts, or potential impacts, to grizzly bears.
Mining would potentially harm water quality, impacting both humans and wildlife, including bull trout and west-slope cutthroat trout in the West Fork of the Bitterroot River. Since bull trout are a threatened species protected under the Endangered Species Act,
the USFS must work with the USFWS to identify and seriously assess impacts to bull trout.
Thank you.
Sincerely,

Jeanne Thatcher

[REDACTED ADDRESS]

[REDACTED ADDRESS]