

STATE OF
COLORADO

Hays - DNR, Peter <peter.hays@state.co.us>

m2018016

1 message

Sarah Street <street.brittle@gmail.com>

Mon, Jun 4, 2018 at 2:42 PM

To: michaela.cunningham@state.co.us, peter.hays@state.co.us

Hello,

I am writing to you to express my deep concern over the proposed Douglas Mountain Ranch Mine. Please do not approve this mine for the following reasons:

1. Economic analyses of other proposed projects have determined that housing values would drop significantly and job growth would be insignificant for our community.
2. The area is right at the confluence of our Bard Creek and the West Fork of Clear Creek. It would be difficult and likely impossible to mitigate impacts on water quality.
3. This proposed area is in a critical part of our watershed used by local populations of Bighorn Sheep, Elk, Deer, and Moose. The disturbance caused by the mine would absolutely drive these populations out of the area and possibly into the more dangerous I-70 corridor. We have a genetically distinct population of Bighorn Sheep in this area that are able to thrive alongside the existing development in the area and would undoubtedly be negatively impacted by the mine and disturbance of their habitat.
4. The area in question is highly visible to our town of Empire. Douglas Mine has said they will be able to control 90% of the visual impacts but we look down at the proposed site from our home as do most of the houses on the north side of town.
5. We would also experience noise pollution from the mine as sound travels easily through this wide open valley.
6. As you may be aware, the winds in this area are high and the dust and airborne matter from the pit would undoubtedly move into the air and negatively impact air quality in this area as well as settling on and around our homes.
7. The material from the mine is all destined for the Denver area. There is no local benefit to this highly destructive and disturbing process.
8. The representatives from the mine told us there would be a maximum of 200-300 trucks per day moving through our area. In this congested I-70 corridor this would be a tremendously negative impact. It would congest the I-40/I-70 interchange and make it nearly impossible for us to move efficiently in, out, and through our community. In addition, the roads and bridges are sadly lacking due to age and normal wear and tear. 200-300 gravel trucks a day would send already under maintained roads and bridges into critical disrepair.

I am still unclear on all the details of the mine but the few details I do have are very disturbing to me and members of my community.

Thank you for your time and consideration,
Sarah Street
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