

STATE OF  
COLORADO

Cunningham - DNR, Michael &lt;michaela.cunningham@state.co.us&gt;

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**Permit #M2018016, Douglas Mountain Mine Project**

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**Andrew Terrill** <andrewterrill@hotmail.com>

Mon, Jul 9, 2018 at 11:25 AM

To: "Peter.hays@state.co.us" &lt;Peter.hays@state.co.us&gt;, "michaela.cunningham@state.co.us" &lt;michaela.cunningham@state.co.us&gt;

Dear Sirs,

I am writing to express my extreme objection to Permit #M2018016, the Douglas Mountain Mine Project near Empire, Clear Creek County.

I am certain you are already aware of the details regarding this project, and I trust that you will consider them objectively, giving due attention to the long term effects the proposal will have on the local population, and not focusing exclusively on the minority who will no doubt financially benefit from the mine. When viewed fairly, honestly, and with long term considerations, it is not conceivable that this project should be allowed to proceed. There is no way on earth this project will be of immediate or lasting benefit to the local community, human or natural.

Please see the attached photo: this is the area that will be utterly altered by the mine in question. Our incredible state is under so many attacks in so many places and from so many people, and before long it will no longer be the Colorado we all know and love. Fortunately, WE (and that means you) have the power to protect what little of it remains. In my opinion, you have a duty to protect it, to take the long term view.

As you must know, the proposal will have serious and long-lasting detrimental effects on the local water systems, upon Bard Creek, Clear Creek and the local ground water. Due to the shallow water table at the proposed mine's location contamination of ground water and natural springs is extremely likely, even if measures against it are taken. Plus, in a watershed where water resources are already severely over taxed, the volume of water required for this type of mining operation is utterly inappropriate and wasteful.

Land erosion would also likely be a significant issue, further contaminating Clear Creek with toxic soil and debris, potentially destroying the water habitat of the endangered and re-introduced Greenback cutthroat trout. Not only that, but the wildlife that live and frequently pass across the plateau would be devastated, if not potentially destroyed. Elk, deer, moose and bear roam this plateau. And then there is the largest Big Horn Sheep population in the nation. This population's range and migratory patterns have been well documented in a recent Colorado Parks and Wildlife report (see: "Population Estimation, Survival Estimation and Range Delineation for the Georgetown Bighorn Sheep herd" dated Sept. 2015) and this proposed mine sits right in the heart of their habitat and migratory route. To propose a mine here, and risk decimating this Bighorn population, is inconceivably selfish and irresponsible.

And then there are the air pollution and health issues that will effect residents. This valley frequently experiences strong winds, winds that will spread mine dust near and far. Air pollution due to the massive amount of dust entering the environment from the strip mining operation, and from the hundreds of trucks daily transporting materials, would cause long term health issues for many residents and visitors alike. I'm sure someone will be getting rich off this proposed mine, but it won't be doing the local's health any damn good.

Clearly, the Douglas Mountain Mine development would destroy this rare plateau in Clear Creek County and have many extreme effects. This clearly isn't beneficial to either Colorado or Clear Creek County. The 'supposed' mitigation measures proposed by the mine are entirely inadequate. This development is not beneficial to the environment, to tourism, to the local human population, or to the wildlife. It is the polar opposite of everything we should be doing with our land. It would be destroying it for ever.

Please, deny the establishment of the Douglas Mountain Mine and play a part in a positive future, not a destructive one.

In appreciation of your honest consideration and care.

Andrew Terrill  
Golden, Colorado



**Empire Meadow.jpg**  
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