

April 27, 2020

Colorado State Land Board
1127 Sherman Street, Suite 300
Denver, CO 80203-2206

Dear Mr. Cazier,

Re: Grape Creek Mineral Exploration by Zephyr Minerals | Permit #P2020002

I am writing out of concern and **opposition** to a any mineral exploration permitting being considered on a section of state trust land known as *Grape Creek-Horseshoe Mountain*.

I live in Cañon City, and make my living in tourism. I work locally as an interpretive guide, and frequently lead tours into Temple Canyon Park, over land owned by the City of Cañon City, and on lands adjacent to the Grape Creek-Horseshoe Mountain parcel. In fact, in 2019 alone, I conducted more than 40 tours into this area. I also have been a volunteer with the regional tourism council, and see mining as antithetical to our local economy, and its heavy reliance on tourism and outdoor recreation. The very thought of opening this beautiful preserve to mining is of grave concern. This entire episode is like the movie Groundhog Day, when the same story repeats itself; it is tiresome and should stop. Allowing exploration now will only make the progression to mining and extraction later easier, and that should not happen.

Allowing mining on this SLB Stewardship Trust Land, is wholly inconsistent and incompatible with the stated purposes for which it was preserved in 1998, namely, *"only those uses that will protect and enhance the beauty, natural values, open space and wildlife habitat of those lands."*

Furthermore, the Colorado Wilderness Act of 2018 features this Trust parcel within its proposed Grape Creek Wilderness. In addition to wilderness qualities and great backcountry recreation access, the land's identified natural values include, *"rare plants (Arkansas Canyon stickleaf, Nuttallia densa, potential for Degener beardtongue), wildlife/wildlife habitat, open space connectivity, and beauty."* Grape Creek's pristine waters and downstream water supplies, including the Arkansas River, would be at grave risk from mining activity.

The SLB designated this Stewardship Trust parcel based in part on the nominations by strong supporters including the Sierra Club and Wild Connections. Under State Land Board policy, the Director, *"shall review and evaluate whether the new use will adversely affect the natural values of the property."*

Through the processes of ground exploration, drilling, and, if mining is approved, road building, tunneling, and massive mine waste disposal, there is no way that the land's identified natural values can survive. Protect the Grape Creek-Horseshoe Mountain parcel. Reject any proposal to explore for, or mine minerals on this land.

Continuing to advocate for compatible, rational, responsible and sustainable land use.



Steve Kaverman, CIG, CITM

STATE OF
COLORADO

Cazier - DNR, Tim <tim.cazier@state.co.us>

Permit Application 2020002 / Zephyr Minerals1 message

Steve Kaverman <steve@tourismchampion.com>

Mon, Apr 27, 2020 at 10:52 AM

Reply-To: steve@tourismchampion.com

To: tim.cazier@state.co.us

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Steve Kaverman

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