

Sheep Creek Mine Proposal

Deficiencies & Risks in Exploration Plan

📍 Headwaters, West Fork of the Bitterroot River

**DON'T
POLLUTE
THE ROOT**



BITTERROOT WATER
PARTNERSHIP

6 million lbs of hazardous material

Excavated from the site and trucked in hundreds of trips along the West Fork of the Bitterroot, from the exploration site to Conner.

3,000+ helicopter flights

Flying excavated material and equipment around the site and across the 30+ miles from West Fork Headwaters to/from Conner.

0 Tests, 0 Plans for Toxic Substances in Disturbed Rock

The Plan focuses on the chemicals that will be brought to the site. It gives no attention to hazards present in the rock itself. It contains no discussion of asbestos, uranium, thorium, radium, radon, or other radioactive or hazardous substances normally associated with rare earth elements.

0 Plans for Water Management

The proposal ignores the two most common threats mine exploration poses to rivers and streams: acid mine drainage and polluted run-off from mined materials left on site. The plan states surface or groundwater monitoring will occur only if a permit requires it - that no monitoring is needed otherwise.



Headwaters, West Fork of the Bitterroot River

US Critical Materials' mining claims at Sheep Creek span 11-square miles - an area 11x the size of Painted Rocks Reservoir.

Every decision about the proposal to mine in the Bitterroot River's headwaters needs to be judged against the full range of potential impacts to our waters and our strong, resource-based economies.

Don't risk the Bitterroot to irresponsible mining in this critical headwaters habitat.

Learn more and submit your comment to the Forest Service.



DONT POLLUTE THE ROOT.COM/TAKE-ACTION

We urge the Bitterroot National Forest to recognize the extraordinary circumstances that warrant this Plan be reviewed with a complete Environmental Assessment. The Plan lacks the detail needed to assess whether the things we care about most - the health of our community, waters, and wildlife - are at significant risk.

Bitterroot Ways of Life At Risk

from proposed Sheep Creek Mine project

Proposed Mine Site

Sheep Creek

West Fork of the Bitterroot River

10 billion gallons of water stored in Painted Rocks Reservoir

East Fork of the Bitterroot River

\$68 million fishing economy

Iconic Fish & Wildlife

\$80 million tourism & recreation economy

Bitterroot River

12+ Local Communities

Darby, MT

Agriculture Economy

Hamilton, MT

Vibrant Downtown Areas

1,000+ Farms and Ranches

DON'T POLLUTE THE ROOT

What happens in the headwaters affects the whole river