

Comment on the Kilgore Exploration Proposal!



Photo: Tony Huegel

OVERVIEW

The Caribou-Targhee National Forest (CTNF) is looking for **YOUR** input on an environmental analysis for a proposal for continued gold exploration in the Centennial Mountains near Kilgore, about 80 miles north of Idaho Falls. The Idaho Conservation League and Greater Yellowstone Coalition's preliminary analysis of the agency's draft reveals that proposed intensive road construction and drilling would degrade important habitat for endangered or imperiled species like grizzly bears, lynx, whitebark pine, and Yellowstone cutthroat trout. **We encourage you to provide input to the Forest Service during the public comment period that runs through February 11, 2021.**

Here's how to comment:

Step 1: Read about the [proposed project](#) and its environmental effects.

Step 2: Review the talking points and comment writing tips provided below.

Step 3: Submit your comment [here](#).

TALKING POINTS

- **The Centennial Range is not a good place to mine.** The Centennial Range and surrounding foothills are a complex and interconnected area. Home to many sensitive species, upstream of Camas National Wildlife Refuge, and at the headwaters of the Snake River Aquifer, impacts to the area will be far reaching. The streams emanating from these mountains directly recharge the Eastern Snake Plain Aquifer, which provides drinking water to hundreds of thousands of Idahoans.
- **This intensive road construction and drilling program would degrade important fish, wildlife, and plant habitat.** These mountains are a key wildlife corridor that provides a critical east-west link between the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem and the large wilderness areas of Central Idaho. If authorized, the proposal would degrade vital habitat for a number of threatened or sensitive species such as grizzlies, lynx, whitebark pine, and Yellowstone cutthroat trout.
- **The Forest Service should not rush to re-approve exploration activities.** This exploration proposal is nearly identical to the one struck down in federal court in May 2020 and does not meaningfully address the deficiencies of the last proposal. The Forest Service owes it to the public to slow down and invest in a thorough and complete environmental review before considering approval for the Kilgore Project; including developing an alternative to Excellon's proposal that is significantly more protective of the areas lands, waters, and wildlife. A Supplemental Environmental Assessment should be developed to better assess the impacts of this project.

COMMENT WRITING TIPS

- **Make it personal.** Personal stories are more powerful because they show that you have a tangible connection to the place. Draw upon your own experiences hiking, camping, hunting, etc. in the Centennial Mountains for your written comments.
- **Establish your credibility.** Give context to why this area is important to you and how this project could impact you and the natural environment of this area. *For example, "I have lived in Idaho Falls for X years and often recreate on National Forest lands in the Centennial Mountains..."*
- **It's not a popularity contest.** Providing substantive comments on the proposal is more impactful and useful to the CTNF decision makers than simply expressing your general opposition to the project.

HELPFUL LINKS

- [Kilgore Environmental Assessment](#)
- [ICL/GYC press release](#) on 2021 Kilgore Environmental Assessment
- [ICL/GYC press release](#) regarding prior court victory on the Kilgore project