

Help Us **DRIVE OUT** the **GHOSTS** of **MINING**

from **Eastern Sierra Lands!**

Go to any ghost town in the Western U.S., and, if you can see beyond the romanticism of wooden mineworker shacks, company stores, hoist houses, mine trolleys and railways in tunnels that no longer go anywhere, you will see the ugly ghosts of desecrated landscapes, exploited resources, short-lived fortunes, and broken dreams. Those are the Ghosts of Mining Past, and they can teach us much about the industry's boom-and-bust curse. That is the legacy of mining. It always has been.

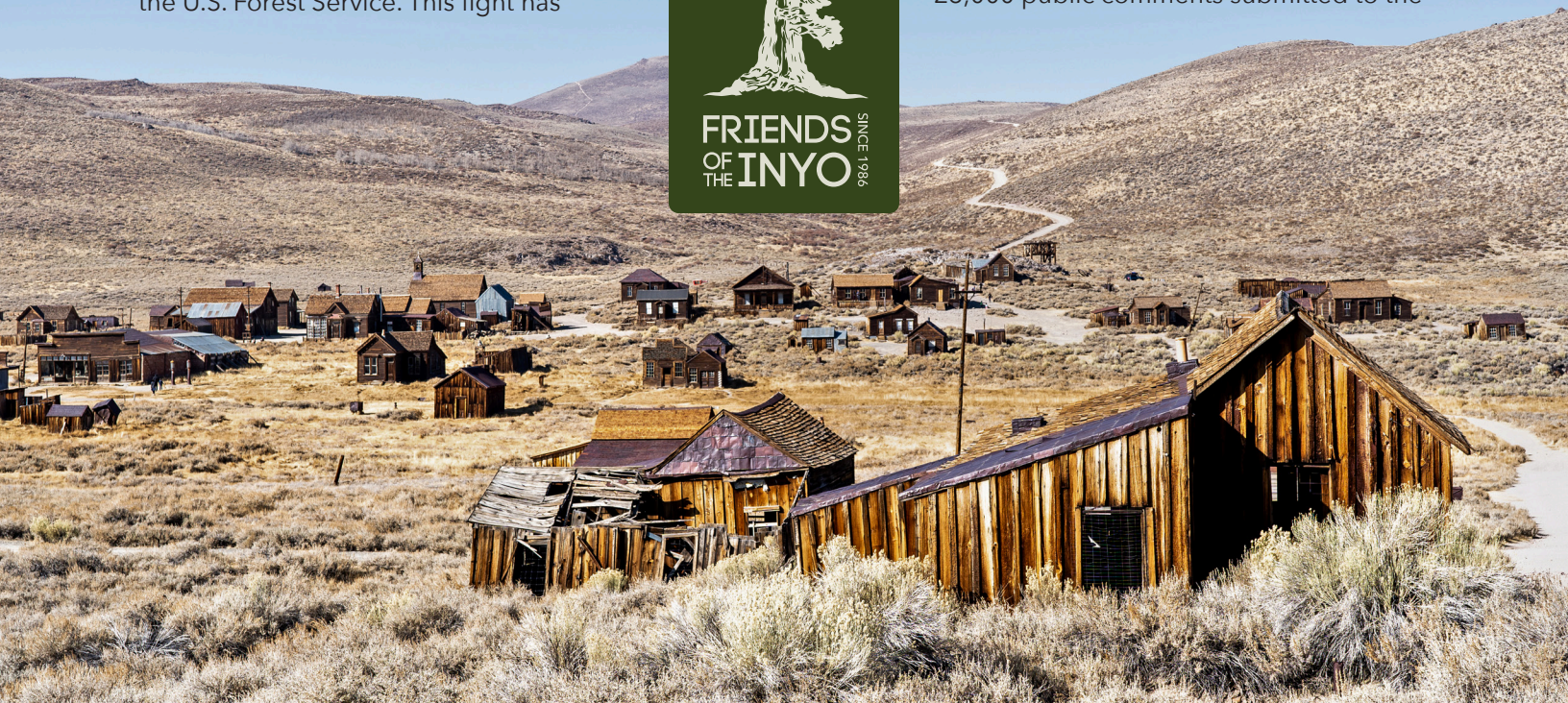
Currently, the Eastern Sierra is haunted by two Ghosts of Mining Present. Today's mining ghosts are more terrifying than the Ghosts of Mining Past because of new technologies such as open pit and heap-leach mining that can truly ravage a landscape, denuding it of plant life, displacing fragile wildlife, defiling sacred Tribal lands, and polluting bodies of water above and below ground.

In Long Valley's ecologically sensitive Hot Creek Geologic Site, in Southern Mono County, Friends of the Inyo and other environmental organizations have been fighting through the courts a categorical exclusion for exploratory mining granted to Canadian company KORE Mining by the U.S. Forest Service. This fight has

been going on since the fall of 2021, and is now at the appeal stage, following a court ruling earlier this year that allowed the project to go forward. Much is at stake, including:

- The cultural value of Hot Creek and Long Valley for the Kutzadika'a Tribe, who have called these lands home for thousands of years;
- The very existence of endangered fish the Owens Tui Chub, and a dwindling population of Bi-state Sage Grouse; and
- The enjoyment of local and out-of-area fishermen and recreationists for whom Long Valley and Hot Creek provide solace and renewal.

Meanwhile, in Southern Inyo County's Conglomerate Mesa, FOI and the Conglomerate Mesa Coalition have been working for the last three years to keep another Canadian mining company, K2 Gold, from destroying one of Inyo's last remaining intact landscapes. With the help of the Lone Pine Paiute and Timbisha Shoshone Tribes, fellow environmentalists, Southern Inyo residents and business owners, and many other stakeholders, more than 23,000 public comments submitted to the





Bureau of Land Management in late 2021, forced the requirement of an environmental impact statement (EIS) before any exploratory drilling could begin, thus ensuring the protection of:

- The traditional homelands and cultural resources of the Timbisha Shoshone and Lone Pine Paiute Shoshone people;
- Fragile desert plants like the Inyo Rock Daisy, which is endemic to the Mesa; the Badger Flat Threadplant, a newly discovered species; and groves upon thriving groves of healthy Western Joshua Trees;
- Acres of Lands with Wilderness Characteristics, California Desert National Conservation Lands and Areas of Critical Environmental Concern status;
- Culturally significant artifacts discovered during a previous exploratory phase; and
- Precious water, which would need to be used extensively in drilling/mining activities.

K2 Gold, the eleventh company to set its sights on the Mesa in the last 30 years, has indicated it will go forward with an EIS this year. FOI has defended and will continue to defend these precious lands for as long as it takes.

But we need your help! The Ghosts of Mining Future will irreparably damage Hot Creek and Conglomerate Mesa if we don't act swiftly to break the mining and resource extraction curse that has been haunting the Eastern Sierra for the last two centuries.

Both the Hot Creek and Conglomerate Mesa protection campaigns have many needs, from staff salaries, to supplies such as posters, yard signs, stickers and other printed materials, to public event costs like our workshops to educate the public about the damages of mining, and more.

Please help us raise \$40,000 to sustain these campaigns and prevent the devastating exploitation of the irreplaceable landscapes that are Hot Creek and Conglomerate Mesa. Thank you for donating today through our website, [friendsoftheinyo.org/donate!](https://www.friendsoftheinyo.org/donate/)

Sincerely,

Wendy Schneider,
Executive Director



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