

Hello,

My name is Cullen Gardner I am writing in relation to the Stibnite Gold Mine and its DEIS. I actively recreate Idaho and in the Boise and Payette National Forests. I was born and raised in Boise and feel an attachment to Conservation of our public lands.

It seems that Alternatives 1-4 still involve dumping of tailings around the site and near the East Fork of the South Fork of the Salmon River. The integrity of the immediate surroundings after the mine begins operations concerns me. Previous operations have scarred the area immensely, luckily other samaritans and the forest service have managed to start reviving the area. The proposed operations would only take us further back. The tailings storage proposed would upset the beautiful scenery and recreation that so many enjoy about the East Fork of the South Fork of the Salmon River and areas surrounding this and the Stibnite site. Under Significant Issues, in the Executive Summary(DEIS), it is stated that *“Construction and operation of mine infrastructure may impact scenic integrity and quality, and may result in change of the Forest Plan(s) Visual Quality Objectives”*. This would affect Hunters, Anglers, Hikers, and all others seeking enjoyment outdoors and returned use of the surrounding areas.

The proposed dumping of tailings will also directly affect the quality of surrounding soil and the surrounding water table. In the Executive Summary(DEIS), under Surface Water and Groundwater Quality, it states *“The SGP may affect soil and water resources through acid rock drainage and/or metals leaching from mineralized rock in the mine pits, DRSF’s, and TSF”*. Alternatives One through Four all involve the continued dumping of tailings. Alternative 5 is the only alternative that meets the Baseline Condition of *“No new mining waste generated”*. The leaching of toxins would not only negatively affect the wildlife of surrounding areas. But there is also potential for accidental spills of toxic waste/tailings into the surrounding waterways. This could proliferate throughout the whole watershed and negatively affect the health of citizens living in and around the watershed. As a concerned citizen I urge you to please take action and support Alternative 5.

-Respectfully,

Cullen Gardner
1607 N 14th St,
Boise ID, 83702
(208)841-1443
dragonball0823@gmail.com