

Chief Vicki Christiansen  
US Forest Service  
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Chief Vicki Christiansen:

My name is Eric Riley. I was born and raised as a third generation Idahoan, received my undergraduate education from the University of Idaho, and currently own and operate a large swiftwater training company – *Swiftwater Safety Institute LLC*. My lifeline and the lifeline of my 40 employees rests largely on the shoulders of a bustling and healthy recreational and commercial population of avid river users. I am extremely concerned about the short-sighted notion of any long-term positive outcomes of the Stibnite Gold Project in the state of Idaho. I am interested in the long-term sustainability of a healthy ecosystem. I am a public land owner and I am mad as hell about the potential negative impacts a project like this can easily unleash.

I am concerned about the continued health of the river and forest ecosystems in the headwaters of the South Fork of the Salmon River and therefore I am writing to request for extension of the comment period for the Draft EIS for the Stibnite Mine Project to 120 days. Many who are concerned have not had time to comment during the excessively short comment period. It's not due to lack of concern, but life has been very complicated for a number of people during this pandemic and historical election year/process. It seems as though there are so many things to be concerned with that it would stand to reason that an extension to the full 120 days would be in the public's best interest. The very public that owns 2620 acres of the potentially affected 3500 acres.

Therefore, and for the additional reasons that follow, I'm requesting that the comment period be extended to the full 120 days:

- 1) The DEIS for the Stibnite Gold Project contains an enormous amount of information, much of which has not been readily available to the public. It is unreasonable to assume that 45 days plus the given partial mini-extension (to 10/28/2020) is enough time to thoroughly examine and comment on a document thousands of pages long. The full extension of 120 days is needed as a minimum to review the document in a way for citizens to be able to submit substantive comments.
- 2) Similar mining proposals, such as the Pebble Mine DEIS 2019 (120 days), Rosemont Copper Mine DEIS 2011 (90 days), Idaho Cobalt Project 2007 (originally 60 days but was extended to 90 days in response to requests for additional review time), Thompson Creek Mine MMPO DEIS 2014 (modified mine plan of operations 90 days), have had comment periods at least twice as long.
- 3) Further, the given comment period does not account for input from citizens who may have had their time/ bandwidth further limited due to life events (such as births and deaths) and/or the

extensive amount of natural events (wildfires and hurricanes) that have impacted citizens during the limited given comment period. In order to hear public input, you must account for the true limitations and lack of inclusivity for citizens of different circumstances in the given number of provided days.

4) In the given comment period, there is a lack of acknowledgement that this comment period also falls immediately before the national election, and citizens have limited bandwidth due to personal obligations to engage in political processes. More time is needed to comprehensively review this project during this time of a national election.

Thank you very much for your hard work and for reading this comment, and the comments of so many other concerned citizens. I urge you to strongly consider extending the comment period for the Draft EIS for the Stibnite Gold Project to 120 days. We need to get this right.

If you would please confirm receipt of this message, it would be greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Eric Riley". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long, sweeping underline.

Eric Riley

Swiftwater Safety Institute

Public Land Owner / Concerned citizen

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