

October 24th, 2020

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To whom it may concern,

Hello, My name is Skip Armstrong and I'm a recreational user of the South Fork Salmon/Big Creek area and have read through the current DEIS and have significant concern about the gaps of information being considered. Additionally, I'm deeply concerned of the environmental impact of the proposed mine. I state my concerns as follows;

On page 603 of the DEIS "The analysis area is a popular area for a variety of recreation activities on both private and public lands." A summary statement of the importance and abundance of recreation in the analysis area is provided; however, the entirety of the recreation section does not mention or address how recreation will be impacted by the Stibnite project, nor does it provide recent sources in its descriptions of uses (sources are out of dates, esp. In the context of Idaho's booming population, noting its value of recreation (census.gov, 2020; Foy, 2020; Raphelson, 2017; Men's Journal, 2019). Please provide information on impacts to economic and social cultural benefits of recreation to local communities and state, national, and international visitors in a supplemental DEIS that can be reviewed.

On page 615 "Recreation is considered a major use in the Big Creek area of PNF MA 13 (Forest Service 2003a)," is cited using a 2003 reference (17 years out of date). Per the National Forest Management Act and ROS, the FS is required to provide recreation opportunities. As Idaho is currently the fastest growing state in the nation since 2016 and it is noted that current and inbound residents value recreation highly (a motivating factor in their move to this state) (census.gov, 2020; Foy, 2020; Raphelson, 2017; Men's Journal, 2019), please include and disclose more recent resources for recreation use analysis of this area in a supplemental DEIS in order to inform substantial and informed comments.

FURTHER related to more recent data being taken into account is this:

- Recreation is Idaho's outdoor recreation economy generates \$7.8 billion in consumer spending and support 78,000 jobs
- 79% of Idaho's residents participate in outdoor recreation

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- Our outdoors are a recruitment tool for businesses used to attract and retain workers
- Areas in the West with protected wilderness, national parks and recreational assets have higher growth rate and higher per-capita income
- Medical savings and improved physical and mental health are associated with outdoor lifestyles

(Source: Bureau of Economic Analysis, 2018; Idaho Business for the Outdoors, 2020)

The Stibnite Gold Project will require year-round shipments of thousands of tons of hazardous or toxic chemicals and explosives and millions of gallons of gasoline and diesel fuel. The transportation routes are along the Payette River, or the Weiser River, or the Salmon and Little Salmon Rivers. All shipments will travel through residential and commercial areas of McCall or Cascade, then along 75 miles of backcountry roads to the mine site. The Draft Environmental Impact Statement does not analyze the accident and spill risk anywhere on Hwy.'s 95 or 55 or in the towns of McCall or Cascade. The DEIS grossly underestimates the accident risk on backcountry roads. The DEIS contains no analysis of the effects of a spill and no plan to clean up a spill.

Thank you for hearing my concerns and appreciate you considering my perspective.

Skip Armstrong, recreational user of the area
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