Dear Payette National Forest,

I’m writing my comments concerning the proposed Stibnite Gold Mine project.

I have lived in McCall, Idaho for 40 years. I enjoy hiking, camping, experiencing the beautiful scenery and wildlife of our wonderful state. My family and friends have grown up hunting and fishing here. The South Fork of the Salmon River and all its tributaries are spectacular.

Around 30 years ago, I worked with ICL and was involved with the HECLA mining at Stibnite. I am familiar with unkept promises. Earmarked monies for reclaimation, better containment liners, and double hulled trucks transporting chemicals along the river were basically ignored. I believe my(our) public lands, wildlife and water suffered greatly for it.

I want you to extend the comment period. Many people who understand DEIS’s are having a hard time sifting through this one. COVID 19 has made this an especially hard time for everyone to get together and discuss important topics.

I’m very concerned with the semitrucks delivering chemicals up HWY 55 and down from the Lewiston area. I believe Chapter 4.16 of the DEIS talks about it. The paper also stated the mine traffic would ONLY operate from 5a.m.-7p.m.! 5 trucks per hour!! HWY 55 is hazardous enough already! We don’t need the extra semis full of chemicals driving on our roads. Also, if the trucks come down from Lewiston, they have to go right through our town. Are they going to be double hulled trucks this time? Winter time roads we know, can be treacherous.

The Valley County Comprehensive Plan includes a Recreation goal “To Promote and support a viable recreation and tourism program”. The DEIS does not provide information on how recreation in our area will be impacted.

Thank you for your consideration.

Kathy Stewart

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McCall, Idaho