

Ms. Linda Jackson
Payette National Forest Supervisor

RE: Stibnite Gold Project Draft EIS Public Comment

It is with deep concern over the SGP that I am writing this letter. I have lived in McCall since 1973. I am extremely concerned about our environment, the fish and our water quality, due to this project.

Over half of the mine footprint is in undisturbed habitat. Why would we even consider putting mining waste or building new roads in undisturbed habitat? Why would we allow the blasting and grinding of rock that is likely to mobilize additional arsenic? Why would we allow millions of gallons of diesel fuel, cyanide and other chemicals to be brought to such an area?

The DEIS specifically states that this project will adversely affect bull trout, chinook salmon, steelhead and the Westslope cutthroat trout. It will also affect their critical habitats. The SGP will permanently block or destroy up to 7 miles that these fish depend on for survival. This project is also predicted to increase some stream temperatures to unsurvivable levels for these fish. It is predicted that approximately 100,000 fish would be injured or killed.

Why would we even consider risking all of this? It is stated that the SGP project will transport 4600-6500 heavy vehicles every year. These vehicles will be loaded with hazardous chemicals and will be driving through our community and along our rivers. This is an accident waiting to happen. Our waterways and communities need to be protected. Our citizens need to be protected. In the case of an accident, which is highly likely given our winter road conditions, the closest HazMat team is 4 hours away. The thought of hazardous material seeping into the Payette Lake or Payette River is terrifying. Again, why would we do this?

Thank you for your time,

John Watkins and Esther Mulnick