

My name is Abie Diaz, I am a student of environmental biology, a gardener, master naturalist, and an avid hiker/nature enthusiast. The Stibnite Gold Project presents a wide variety of risks to all forms of life. It's tempting to allow the company to perform some mining clean-up from previous projects, but that can also be accomplished through public efforts; in fact, I know several Re-Wild Volunteers, Master Naturalists, and other community members that would be up to the task. The forest service has presented a fairly comprehensive outline of the potential for issues that the mine presents; however, it fails to acknowledge the further strain that will be put on the neighboring indigenous tribes and the entire community downstream. The mine will leach toxic metals and chemicals into the surrounding earth and water. The transportation of large amounts of those same risky materials to and from the site will eventually result in a disaster.

This project will do more harm than good over its years of operation, and many of us are not convinced that Idahoans will reap much benefit at all. The jobs created will pose physical risks to both present and long-term health. "Locally sourced" antimony will be shipped to an out of state start-up company, then further transported to a facility where it can be processed, which doesn't currently exist in the United States. We can recycle existing metals and use mycelium-skin separators in batteries, the technology is moving forward day by day. Even more important than creating more cars for individuals is implementation of efficient mass transportation systems. Please consider the long term repercussions of this project, as there are already several withstanding issues to be addressed in our stewardship with our non-human kin and mother earth.

Abie Diaz