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1/9/2023

TO: Linda Jackson, Forest Supervisor
Stibnite Gold Project, Payette NATIONAL FOREST (PNF)
500 North Mission Street, Building 2
McCall, IDAHO 83638

From: Margaret "Peggy" Conway

REGARDING: Stibnite Gold Project

Comments:

I AM FAMILIAR WITH THE MINE, AS I WAS A BIO TECH AND HYDRO TECH FOR 30 YEARS ON THE PAYETTE NATIONAL FOREST, INCLUDING THE EAST FORK SOUTH FORK SALMON RIVER AREA. I ALSO PRODUCED THE AIR QUALITY MONITORING REPORT FOR PNF, WHICH INCLUDED FINDING SOURCES AFFECTING THE PNF, SUCH AS VISIBILITY AND PARTICULATE MATTER, PRECIPITATION, AND FISH HABITATS AND LAKE CHEMISTRY MONITORING SOURCES. I SURVEYED HIGH MOUNTAIN LAKES THROUGHOUT THE PNF.

I AM CONCERNED (AS MANY OTHERS ARE) ABOUT ACID MINE DRAINAGE + OTHER CONTAMINANTS (ARSENIC, ANTIMONY, MERCURY, ETC) THAT MAY BE PRESENT IN THE WATERS DISCHARGED BY THE STIBNITE GOLD PROJECT. THE PNF STUDY STATED THAT "WATER STUDIES SHOWED THAT THE PIT LAKE AND THE WASTE ROCK PILE WOULD NEED PERMANENT WATER TREATMENT (!) TO STOP TOXIC METALS FROM LEACHING INTO WATER AND CONTAMINATING THE ~~THE~~ EAST FORK."

I ALSO READ THAT THE YELLOW PINE PIT WOULD BE DRAINED TO MINE, BEFORE IT WAS PARTIALLY REFILLED WITH ROCK + "THE PIT WOULD BE SHAPED THEN LINED WITH A COVER (!) TO PREVENT ~~THE~~ ~~PERMANENT~~ TOXIC METALS FROM LEACHING INTO STIBNITE LAKE, WHICH THE EAST FORK WILL ~~THE~~ FLOW THROUGH (!)."

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P02

I think your ideas ABOUT what would happen to fish + wildlife + water quality have not been studied enough. the idea ^{that} the Lake + Rock pile ~~would~~ ^{would} permanent water treatment ~~will~~ happen is unreasonable, as is the idea that any ~~thin~~ cover would be sufficient to protect the East Fork.

You are taking an incredible ^{chance} that this project would not affect water quality, wildlife, fish, + fish habitat; and could possibly put the adjacent wilderness at risk; and destroy endangered salmon, steelhead + bull trout; And the anadromous streams forever.

I am against this project. I think the Forest Service should deny the Stibnite Gold Project.

Margaret "Peggy" Con

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