

Oct. 9, 2024

To: Forest Supervisor, Payette National Forest

From: Robert Bryant

Subject: **Stibnite Gold Project Final EIS 50516**

These comments are in response to the Stibnite Gold Project EIS 50516.

I am an owner of the Bryant Ranch, a 100-year-old family homestead property on Johnson Creek adjacent to the Johnson Creek airport and 5 miles from Yellow Pine. The Bryant Homestead qualifies for listing on the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP), according to USFS archeologists (agency BS-2645). The Hennessey Homestead, which resides on Bryant Ranch property, also qualifies for listing on the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP), according to USFS archeologists (agency BS-1614).

The Johnson Creek road and power lines run through Bryant Ranch property, so the proposed plans of the Stibnite Gold project will have a major impact on us and our property. It is important that the negative impacts be mitigated if this project is to be approved.

- 1) The proposed high voltage power lines that will traverse our property should be buried underground. The increased height of the planned power poles and lines, and the substantially wider clearance area around the power lines, will have a huge impact on the visual appearance on our property. Also, the planned Johnson Creek substation will be directly visible from our property. This building should be located such that it is not visible from Bryant Ranch property.
- 2) Stibnite Gold Project large and hazardous vehicle traffic should NOT use Johnson Creek road. The Burntlog route should be built before allowing large and hazardous vehicles access to and from Stibnite.
 - a. Personal safety on Johnson Creek road is a significant issue for Bryant Ranch and other Johnson Creek residents with such large and hazardous vehicles sharing the road with local traffic.
 - b. The constant noise and visual corruption from this traffic will be a significant annoyance for Bryant Ranch.
 - c. There is significant risk of hazardous chemical/material spills into Johnson Creek which could kill off endangered chinook salmon and impact their spawning grounds.
- 3) Every year, the Nez Perce Indian tribe, under an agreement with Bryant Ranch, operates a salmon trap and weir on our property within mere feet of Johnson Creek road. This activity is a key part of the Johnson Creek Artificial Propagation Enhancement (JCAPE) project led by the National Marine Fisheries Service and funded by the Bonneville Power Administration in order to restore chinook salmon in the Johnson Creek. This operation is at great risk due to Stibnite Gold traffic on Johnson Creek road and needs to be mitigated so as not to impact this activity.