

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 10/5/2020 6:00:00 AM

First name: Mary

Last name: DeGeeter

Organization:

Title:

Comments: Hello, I live in California but I just spent 3 1/2 weeks in Idaho enjoying the state with my son who now lives in Eagle, ID. We drove and walked the lush greenery, the numerous farms and ranches, the water resources like the Snake River the Boise river and the Payette Rivers. I don't want to see those ecosystems ruined by open mining even if it's remote from this. The general history of strip-mining gold is not a lesson in best conservancy practices. I had read about this project as I pursued gold and lithium investments in July and August this year. It is obvious that the previous mining operation that is to undergo a proposed fixup that could cost millions gives one pause about the prize being extracted from the land. I've visited the gold and silver mining areas of California, Oregon and Nevada over the last 50 years as I took my spouse and our 4 children on vacations. I was horrified at the surface damage done in the Sierra Nevada areas ruining the creeks and rivers there with the surface scars still remaining after 100 years of reforestation. It was a horrible scarring of the hills, affecting everything in the area and into lower valleys. I can only imagine how bad the Idaho site is as it is a large holding of mountainside and valleys. In my travels I've seen hundreds of tailings from hardrock mining on backside of the mountains below Virginia City and along the Sierra Nevada Mountains when driving backroads even in Tombstone, AZ. It's all ugly and no one ever cleaned it up and put the debris back where they got it. If that's the future of reclaiming the mine sites in Idaho, I would not vote in favor of reopening that site. How does one return a beautiful area back to its original or near original state without massive funding which must come out of the profits of the mining endeavor. This project would require oversight by the State [I don't trust the Federal Gov't to administer this project] and reclamation funds procured from every dollar made by the mining. Maybe some advance funds [millions] could be required also so restoration can be ongoing.