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Organization:

Title:

Comments: USFS,

I am a long time resident of the state of Idaho (78 years). While as an undergraduate at Idaho State College (then) and the University of Utah I was a smokejumper in the Payette National Forest's spur facility in Idaho City, 1964, 1965, and 1966. During these summers I became very familiar with the north end of the Boise National Forest from both patrol flights and on the ground, fires and projects. After six years as an officer in the United States Air Force, I returned to graduate school at the University of Idaho. I finally received my PhD in geology with a specialty in paleobotany. During the time as a graduate student I had the occasion to visit the Thunder Mountain paleobotanical site discovered during the mining operation of the late 1980's and the early 1990's. To get there we drove through the old World War 2 Stibnite mine tailings. The contrast between these, the Thunder Mountain operation and the trashed creek in the stibnite area, was amazing. Federal laws addressing clean water and a clean environment passed in the early 1970's have eliminated nearly all water and environmental damage done by mining companies. In addition the economic value to the State of Idaho and the local communities, a very important part of the Stibnite Gold Project is the clean up of the old mining tailings and scars. This should be an important part permitting process.

With the economic potential of this operation the Stibnite Gold Project could be a very important part of this state's economic recovery from this Corona Virus Plague. Basic industry (Agriculture, Forestry, and Mining) in the State of Idaho is the very basis for the economy. We can do these basic industries and still take care of our clean waters and the over all environment. I strongly support the permitting of the Stibnite Gold Project as soon as possible.