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Organization:

Title:

Comments: Please see attached file.

I am a 43 year resident of McCall, raised 6 children and worked as a carpenter and educator/administrator in the McCall-Donnelly School District. With my family, I hold the watersheds of the Salmon River and Payette River with great reverence, respect and awe. I have hiked, camped, ridden bikes, rafted, flown over, soaked in hot springs and worked on the South Fork of the Salmon River. It is a special place, interconnected with the fish, the air, the earth and all beings within its sphere. We human beings, and in this case the forest service, have the responsibility to preserve and protect our public (and private) lands, water and resources in perpetuity. For this reason and because it is a ridiculous waste of time, energy, and resources for something that the world and our country doesn't need, I am opposed to the Stibnite Gold project.

Here are my reasons:

Purpose and need for the project- The US is a net exporter of gold already and IF there is Antimony mined, there is no current domestic processing capacity.

Water Quality- This is a disturbing part of the plan- the idea that the mine owners will have to be responsible to treat the surface water in perpetuity strikes me as a deal breaker and an admission that the water quality cannot be restored to safe levels.

Fish- The risks of all the mitigations and tunnels and storage of toxic waste and rerouting of habitat and changes in water temperature and water chemistry pose an inordinate risk of failure and the stakes are too high for the fish in this watershed. The DEIS itself sets forth the likelihood of damage to habitat, negative impacts to migratory routes, and risk of chemical changes in the water for the four special status native salmonids that live in these waters. So many reasons to Not do anything that puts these fish at risk, nothing!

Climate change and Carbon emissions- There is simply not enough information in the DEIS concerning the effects of mining, in general and the StibniteGold mine in particular, in this era of climate crisis. Increased carbon emissions in Valley County by 800% is unconscionable and no mention is made regarding mitigations or long-term effect of carbon of this pollution.

Social/Community Impacts- This project will exacerbate the current housing crisis in Valley County (McCall especially), adversely affect the School systems and sewer and water systems, cause wage inflation and decrease available labor without providing significant tax revenues.

Further comments:

Project should be more closely aligned with the Payette Forest Plan.

No roads should be built nor mining waste stored in undisturbed habitat.

Don't bring millions of gallons of diesel fuel, cyanide and other chemicals to the site.

Don't place all the burden of road repair, safety and infrastructure on the cities in Valley county.