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First name: Cynthia

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Organization:

Title:

Comments: Dear Linda Jackson, (Payette National Forest Service Supervisor)

I am writing to express my deep concern and disappointment regarding the inadequate Environmental Review that has been conducted regarding the proposed Stibnite Gold project. The current review does not adequately analyze the environmental impacts that would result from the Stibnite Gold project nor does it offer a variety of thoughtful alternatives such as exploring the possibility of underground mining operations as opposed to devastating open pit mining. It is completely unacceptable that the current review either does not address the environmental impacts of a potential open pit mine or has not made this information available to the public. The DEIS itself contains a summary chart of more than two full pages of incomplete or unavailable information which the Forest Service has stated are [squo]deemed essential to a reasoned choice among alternatives[rdquo] (Table 4.1 [ndash] 2)

I strongly encourage the Forest Service to conduct a Supplemental Draft Environmental Impact Statement for the Stibnite Gold Project located in the headwaters of Idaho[squo]s South Fork Salmon River.

The Stibnite Gold project would be an environmental tragedy for our pristine Idaho wilderness, to the people of our state and to future generations of Idahoans.

My husband and I are 30-year residents of New Meadows and school teachers in McCall. We, and many others like ourselves, chose to live in this beautiful area because we value the incredible wilderness, it[squo]s ecosystems and opportunities for recreational diversity. We recognize how unique and precious it is to live in a place where pure water flows, salmon migrate, and many animal species thrive much as they have for 100s of years. Midas Gold[squo]s proposal, if permitted would disturb thousands of acres of public lands, destroy crucial spawning habitat for ESA listed Bull Trout and Chinook Salmon and compromise pristine resources for recreational opportunities downstream.

As Idahoans, we place great trust in the U.S. Forest Service to live up to its motto, [ldquo]Caring for the Land and Serving People.[rdquo] In the case of the Stibnite proposal, it is important that our lands be protected with least possible harm done. Is the Forest Service serving the people of Idaho by not conducting further review? Absolutely not. Future generations of people and animal species should not have to pay the price for careless behavior today.

Please keep the trust of the people of Idaho by conducting a fair, lawful and rigorous Supplemental Draft Environmental Impact Statement. Be stewards of the land that our State deserves. I believe in you.

Sincerely,

Cynthia Dittmer