

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 10/28/2020 6:00:00 AM

First name: Evan

Last name: Stafford

Organization: American Whitewater

Title: National Stewardship Director

Comments: Dear Supervisor Jackson,

Attached is a set of individual comment letters, form plus letters, and form letter signatories collected by American Whitewater (a national non-profit 501(c)(3) river conservation organization) from our members and community regarding the Stibnite Gold Project Draft Environmental Impact Statement, received late on October 28th and submitted October 29th. There are 60 additional form letter signatories and 23 additional form plus and comment letters in this supplemental attachment. These individuals have entrusted American Whitewater with delivering their important public input on this project and many of these form plus and comment letters contain substantive formal comments as defined by the Forest Service. These letters should be counted and entered into the public record individually. Individual addresses and other contact information are included with each comment and they were created uniquely by these individual persons. There should be no question as to the nature of these comments, and that despite their delivery method, these individual comments must be counted, considered, and numbered as such. Thank you.

[Attachment included 60 petition signers for the following letter:]

As an individual who values the rivers and spectacular whitewater resources of Idaho, I am writing to support Alternative 5, the No Action Alternative outlined in the Stibnite Gold Project's Draft Environmental Impact Statement. I am not writing representing a [ldquo]special interest group,[rdquo] I am writing as a concerned citizen and stakeholder who utilizes these public lands in their current undiminished state, lands for which I am an owner of and for which the Forest Service is directed to manage in the public interest. The rivers of the South Fork Salmon watershed contain world class whitewater that paddlers from across the country and the world travel to Idaho to visit.

The DEIS clearly states that all of the alternatives presented, apart from Alternative 5, would adversely affect federally listed endangered fish species, their habitat, and the watershed's water quality and quantity. It is incredibly important to me personally that the Forest Service protect the outstanding water quality of this major tributary to the Wild and Scenic Salmon River, as this river system is vitally important for native and endangered fish, outdoor recreation, and the economic vitality of the local communities that surround it. Moving forward with this project would not only adversely impact my personal enjoyment of this public resource through whitewater paddling, camping and fishing, it would negatively impact all of the people of Idaho who rely on the hundreds of thousands of visitors each year to our National Forests.

[In addition, the attachment included 30 comment letters, of those, 21 were Form Plus or Unique letters. Below is the unique or 'plus' portion of the letters (excluding background and introductory statements)]

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I had the fantastic opportunity to raft the Lower Salmon River last year. I was amazed by the high quality of the water and the amazing wildlife that inhabits the area. I've been invited to kayak the South Fork Salmon next year, and considering the gem that is the Lower Salmon, I can't imagine how much more pristine and amazing the South Fork Salmon can be. But, I know it is because I've heard the stories. I want to be able to tell those stories. I want the people who hear my stories to be able to go there and see it for themselves. This is going to cause unnecessary damage to one of the most remote and pristine places I'll ever travel to. It just isn't worth it. Please don't make the mistake of allowing damage to another truly wild place. Let's keep it wild and allow future generations to enjoy it as such.

The rivers of the South Fork Salmon watershed contain world class whitewater, fishing, and exploration opportunities that paddlers from across the country and the world travel to Idaho to visit. I have not yet had the opportunity to paddle the South Fork Salmon, but having heard dozens of epic stories from friends of their South Fork Salmon trips, I truly hope to experience this PRICELESS resource in its most undisturbed and natural state, without the presence of an environmentally detrimental gold mine. The DEIS clearly states that all of the alternatives presented, apart from Alternative 5, would adversely affect federally listed endangered fish species, It is incredibly important to me personally that the Forest Service protect the outstanding water quality and quantity of this major tributary camping and fishing, it would negatively impact the livelihood of the people of Idaho who rely on the hundreds of thousands of visitors each year to our National Forests.

I am deeply concerned with this issue and I want to preserve all the beauty of our wide open spaces and healthy environment that we have left. It is our responsibility to keep the wide open spaces thriving. What's wild doesn't belong to us to take over, it is meant to remain in its natural beauty and for our benefit. We must stop taking advantage of what isn't ours to destroy. I sincerely request we stop this proposed project, that will destroy the land of the Gem State.

I am opposed to the Stibnite Gold Mine. The South Fork of the Wild and Scenic Salmon River is too valuable to risk. The fish, recreation, and economic value of the tourist industry in the area are far too important to allow this project to go forward. One of the first places that I ever backpacked as a high school student was right near there. I want future generations to be able to enjoy it. I don't want to have to have my taxes go to yet another superfund cleanup site. Please save the South Fork of the Salmon. Thanks for your consideration.

Please remember that you cannot money, money cannot provide joy other than materialistic things.

I oppose this for all of the reasons outlined below, particularly the harm to wildlife and waterways, but also for another reason. I was living in Silverton, Colorado several years ago when the Gold King Mine wastewater spill and environmental disaster occurred. Many communities in multiple states were deeply affected. The site - in one of the most astoundingly beautiful mountain areas in the world - became an EPA superfund site. Livelihoods and property values were harmed, as well as hundreds of miles of the Animas River.

Find another way to make money. The earth is dying already. We need to save everything we can right now.

Please don't mess with our clean water just for some gold. You can't drink clean gold, but we all

need clean water.

Many animal species call this river home too, including salmon and steelhead, and many of these fish populations are endangered or threatened. The DEIS clearly states that all of the alternatives presented, apart from Alternative 5, would adversely affect federally listed endangered fish species. Moving forward with this project would not only adversely impact my personal

Moving forward with this project would adversely impact my personal enjoyment of this public resource through whitewater paddling, camping and fishing

The South Fork Salmon River is finally healing from the scars of past mining activity, and the impacts of expanded mining activity represents an unacceptable risk to this watershed. Keep these sacred places safe! It's not worth it.

Please protect this area for future generations.

Growing up in Idaho afforded me an unrivaled childhood, the ability to develop as an individual who values the rivers, canyons, and natural processes of a landscape. These processes in many places were able to exist because the river had healed from poorly managed industry. One notable example was the Stibnite mine. When I first was able to travel to the South Fork of the Salmon, so much of the value came from knowing that the river had been brought back from disaster. Yes, gold and antimony are valuable. But protecting Idaho is more valuable.

The South Fork of the Salmon is precious!

No mine is worth damage to a pristine natural river such as the South Fork Salmon. We must work to protect our endangered fish species and their habitats. The water quality is outstanding and to put it at risk and degrade it is foolish.

Please do not do this or if you do try to find a way to make a smaller impact on the environment.

"This project will destroy natural resources for good. As one of the last untouched rivers in the country, we must protect it. Once the river basin is destroyed by humans, it will never be able to be the same. ,,

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This is a section of River that is special not only to me, but to multiple other people, both within and outside of the whitewater community.

"The salmon river watershed is an amazing resource. The fact that it is one of the last free flowing watersheds in the western United States is amazing in of itself. It is also one of the last habitats for salmon to survive in, which are an important food source and nutrient transporter to a myriad of ecosystems. These public lands are of monumental value to our current and future generations, and should be preserved for all to enjoy.

Studying education, I have learned that time outdoors is of incredible importance to developing children, and so it is of utmost importance that we preserve ALL that we can.

Putting these mines in would disrupt the habitat and take money away from small towns that need it most during this time of difficulty. Preserved, unspoiled land is a finite resource that we are running out of. Putting in a mine that does not benefit the area and takes money away from surrounding communities is abhorrent. The fact that a Canadian mine company would come into the U.S. and exploit OUR resources for their gain, destroying OUR

public land in the process is shocking. I strongly urge everyone to vote against this absurd proposition."

I think it would be a terrible idea to allow a Canadian corporation to come in and damage the fragile eco system in the South Fork Salmon drainage. Public lands belong to all Americans and should be preserved for our enjoyment and those of future generations. Resource extraction irreversibly damages wild places and it would be unpatriotic to allow foreign corporations to take advantage of us in this way. Profit for some should not be allowed to ruin what belongs to us all.

I am writing to support Alternative 5, the No Action Alternative outlined in the Stibnite Gold Project's Draft Environmental Impact Statement. I am not writing representing a "special interest group," I am writing as a concerned citizen and stakeholder who utilizes these public lands in their current undiminished state, lands for which I am an owner of and for which the Forest Service is directed to manage in the public interest. The rivers of the South Fork Salmon watershed contain world class whitewater that paddlers from across the country and the world travel to Idaho to visit.

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