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First name: Sandra

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Organization:

Title:

Comments:

January 5, 2023

Linda Jackson, Supervisor
Payette National Forest
Stibnite Gold Project
500 N. Mission Street, Building 2
McCall, Idaho 83638

Dear Supervisor Jackson:

The Idaho Recreation Council is an Idaho nonprofit association representing Idaho motorized and non-motorized recreation interests. Our membership is comprised of organizations from all parts of the state who work together to protect access for this and future generations. We are proud advocates of the philosophy of Responsible Shared Use which means all users have a responsibility to care and share the land and no one user has greater rights than another. Many of our members regularly recreate in the Payette National Forest including the federally managed lands adjacent to the Perpetual project area.

The IRC supports the Forest Service's selection of the 2021 Modified Mine Plan Alternative in the Supplemental Draft Environmental Impact Statement. Our leadership and many of our members have worked with Perpetual over the years and found them to be good neighbors who care about the environment and Idahoans. Valley County is in dire need of economic growth; however, it is crucial that we do not overlook the economic stability of small communities like Yellow Pine. The proposed plan would eliminate snowmobile access to Yellow Pine for three years. This would likely close the few remaining businesses that are open year-round. We believe it is possible to retain snowmobile access to Yellow Pine by allowing Burnt Log to Thunder Mountain roads be groomed during construction, then 1 mile West parallel to the Johnson Creek Road using the Power-line right-of-way to Wapiti Meadow. We are confident that the no-net gain rule will not be a problem. The keeper of the numbers in this regard is Valley County & I believe their comments will address no-net gain.

We also are pleased that a new groomed trail is proposed from Warm Lake to Landmark but there is no designated access from Landmark East to the Stanley groomed trail and there needs to be! The new and temporary groomed trail to Landmark needs to cross the Warm Lake Road and continue on to connect with the Deadwood and Stanley groomed trail. This connection is not shown in the SDEIS.

This project is not only very important to Idaho but also to the nation, we urge you to approve the project and that can be done without impacting the economic stability of small towns.

Thank you for considering our comments.

Sincerely,

Sandra Mitchell
Executive Director

