

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 1/11/2023 4:59:17 AM

First name: Verena Eve

Last name: Preucil

Organization:

Title:

Comments: Dear Forest Supervisor,

I would like to comment on the Stibnite Gold Mine proposal on the South Fork of the Salmon. I believe that the mine would cause great detriment not only to the wonderful Idaho Wilderness but also the Idahoan way of life that we all hold dear. The mission of the Forest Service is to sustain the health, diversity, and productivity of the nation's forests and grasslands to meet the needs of present and future generations. This mine will be harmful to our environment and our health for generations to come and would go against the forest service's mandate.

I was born and raised in Idaho and hold Idaho's future close to my heart. While I understand the value that gold has in today's economy for electronics, wiring, etc., I do not believe that that value is greater than the one preserving the watershed has to offer. The salmon river watershed is home to thousands of species of fish, plants, and animals and is an inspiring site for recreation and livelihood. The cost of pollution from runoff from this mine would be massive. It is not just gold the project would unearth, but various heavy metals like arsenic and zinc and acid-generating materials, creating toxic waste that will need to be properly stored. Proper storage of heavy metals is difficult and costly, especially when unearthed in remote Idaho wilderness. Even with the reclamation efforts, contaminants will exist in the soil for generations to come, as well as in soils far away from the mine after running down the river. I lived in Triumph for several years and could never build a garden in the ground because of soil contamination from the Triumph mine that was closed generations ago. Not only that, but the contamination has effected the pH of the river running alongside the town of Triumph that has effected the ability of trout to reproduce. The department of Lands is currently penciling in over \$7million in cleanup efforts for 2023 to this mine because of the danger it still poses to surrounding homes and the Eastfork of the Big Wood River. Two tunnels have collapsed in the last 20 mines and further collapse would be catastrophic. I urge the forest service to stop this mine and prevent another situation such as this. The restoration proposed by the stibnite project to reconstruct a river channel on top of the tailings would have elevated water temperature for the next 100 years. On top of that, the South Fork of the Salmon is part of the Nez Perce Tribe's historical hunting grounds, protected by Treaty Rights. The Stibnite mine would limit hunting and fishing ability and access as well as disturb the animals routines. The forest service is responsible to care for the land and serve the people, and I whole-heartedly believe that the Stibnite Mine would be in violation of that directive. With that, I hope the Forest Service reconsiders the proposal and rejects the Stibnite mine plan.

Thank you for your consideration,

Eve Preucil