

January 4th, 2023

Linda Jackson
Supervisor
Payette National Forest
500 N. Mission Street
McCall, Idaho 83638

RE: Request to extend Stibnite Gold Project SDEIS comment period to 120 days

Dear Supervisor Jackson,

On behalf of the human-powered outdoor recreation community, we write to respectfully request an extension to the 75-day public comment period for the Stibnite Gold Project Supplemental Draft Environmental Impact Statement (SDEIS) to a total of 120 days. An extended review is necessary for our community to better understand how the highly complex Stibnite Gold Project will affect world class whitewater paddling on the South Fork Salmon River, as well as other critical recreational, ecological, and cultural values of the South Fork Salmon Watershed.

Outdoor Alliance is a coalition of ten member-based organizations representing the human powered outdoor recreation community. The coalition includes Access Fund, American Canoe Association, American Whitewater, International Mountain Bicycling Association, Winter Wildlands Alliance, The Mountaineers, the American Alpine Club, the Mazamas, Colorado Mountain Club, and Surfrider Foundation and represents the interests of the millions of Americans who climb, paddle, mountain bike, backcountry ski and snowshoe, and enjoy coastal recreation on our nation's public lands, waters, and snowscapes.

American Whitewater is a national non-profit 501(c)(3) river conservation organization founded in 1954. We have over 7,000 members and 80 local-based affiliate clubs, representing approximately 80,000 whitewater paddlers across the nation. American Whitewater's mission is to protect and restore America's whitewater rivers and to enhance opportunities to enjoy them safely. We have ample membership in Idaho, including in the project vicinity, and our members travel to the project area for its exemplary recreational opportunities from across the United States.

The Main Salmon and South Fork Salmon are two of the finest multi-day whitewater trips in the United States, drawing paddlers from around the West and around the world. The proposed open-pit mine would directly affect more than three square miles of the East Fork of the South Fork of the Salmon Watershed, threatening downstream water quality in the South Fork and Main Salmon, which, in addition to world class whitewater paddling, also hosts important habitat for Threatened salmon, steelhead, and bull trout, as well as the homelands of the Nez Perce Tribe where the Tribe has treaty-reserved rights and natural resources, cultural resources and sacred sites.

Given the complexity of the project and the scope of the SDEIS, as well as the extent of the potential impacts on the South Fork and Main Salmon River and the surrounding area, an extended review is necessary for the public to better understand and respond to the proposed project. This extension is especially necessary considering the existing comment period's overlap with multiple federal holidays.

Thank you for considering this request.

Best regards,



Adam Cramer
Chief Executive Officer
Outdoor Alliance
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American Whitewater
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cc: Louis Geltman, Policy Director, Outdoor Alliance
Chris Winter, Executive Director, Access Fund
Beth Spilman, Executive Director, American Canoe Association
Clinton Begley, Executive Director, American Whitewater
Kent McNeill, CEO, International Mountain Bicycling Association
David Page, Executive Director, Winter Wildlands Alliance
Tom Vogl, Chief Executive Officer, The Mountaineers
Pete Ward, Interim Director, American Alpine Club



Kaleen Deatherage, Interim Executive Director, the Mazamas
Keegan Young, Executive Director, Colorado Mountain Club
Chad Nelsen, Chief Executive Officer, Surfrider Foundation