

Dear Forest Service of Idaho,

My name is Bria Word and I am a student of Enterprise High School. In my environmental science class, we are learning about geology, mining, and environmental issues. I am concerned for the rights and safety of the tribe that resides near the Stibnite Mine. The *Fish Bioaccumulation of Toxins*, speaks of how the 12-15 year mining project will increase the toxicity levels of the river. Both humans and animals eat the fish that are in this river, the Nez Perce included. The amount of chemicals flowing into the river cannot be drained safely, even if they could, the flood of the draining could cause destruction of the tribe's own land. To continue, the Stibnite Mine is near the Idaho Roadless Area and along the Burntlog Route that are designated Backcountry/Restoration and Special Areas of Historic or Tribal Significance. This mine is a harm to the lands of the Nez Perce. The chance of destroying traditional and indigenous land is much higher than the chance of finding important minerals. These "important" minerals can be found in many more places than the Stibnite Mine, but the original land of the Nez Perce isn't anywhere else. Not only would their lands end up being destroyed, but treaties would be broken as well. In 1855 the Nez Perce gave up millions of acres of land to what became known as Washington, Idaho, and Oregon. But this was on the promise that there would be land left for them to hunt, fish, and gather whatever else they needed to prosper. But come 1860, the United States couldn't seem to upkeep this treaty when gold was discovered within their property. The United States Government forced the Nez Perce to enter into a new treaty in 1863. This treaty forced the Nez Perce to give up 90% of their land. Now here we are again, taking advantage of this tribe once again.