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Organization:

Title:

Comments: Linda Jackson

Payette Forest Supervisor

500 N. Mission Street, Building 2

McCall, Idaho 83638-3805.

October 05, 2020

Re: Comments on Stibnite Gold Project Draft Environmental Impact Statement

Dear Supervisor Jackson,

My name is Will Stubblefield and I am a paddler, educator, and concerned community member impacted by the proposed Stibnite Gold Project. Over the past ten years I have lived and worked in the watershed of the South Fork that would be irreversibly damaged by proposed mining operations. During this time I have worked for the McCall-Donnelley school district, been a river guide on the Payette and Main Salmon Rivers, and pursued an education at the University of Idaho's field campus in McCall. Through all of these endeavors the South Fork of the Salmon River watershed has been a sanctuary and deeply meaningful place in my life. The proposed SGP will affect water quality, stream flow, access to the river, fisheries and fishing, travel safety, and related land and water based recreation will be adversely impacted in The South Fork of the Salmon River and its tributaries and watershed.

The South Fork of the Salmon watershed is a unique place and should be protected as such by the Payette National Forest. The whitewater is world class and paddlers have come from across the world to experience this place. It is widely known that paddlers seek this place not only for the rapids, but also for the wilderness character, clean water, camping, and fishing. As a user group, we drink from the river, sleep on its banks, and share stories of this place with others. Many of the proposed impacts from the SGP would irreversibly change this experience and it may be lost for generations or longer. As we know, impacts of this operation will also threaten downstream river reaches and users on the Main and Lower Salmon will also be adversely impacted.

The significant issues related to the SGP include negative impacts to surface and ground water, sensitive plant species, wetlands and riparian areas, Federally listed fish species, visual quality of the watershed, as well as, reduced access for public and tribal members, and increased traffic in the South Salmon Watershed. Due to the obvious and substantial negative impacts likely to result from the SGP on the Payette National Forest and surrounding areas, I urge you to select Alternative 5: No Action in response to the DEIS.

Sincerely,

Will Stubblefield