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Organization:

Title:

Comments: I am pleased to be able to comment on the above referenced project. I am a third generation Idahoan. I grew up using the Payette National Forest as my hunting, fishing, and camping playground. While attending the University of Idaho, I was employed for three years by the Forest to 'stake' the road plans for the timber sales then underway. In addition to these duties I dug fireline when requested. These timber sales provided employment for the residents of Valley County and monies for the operation of schools in and around the Payette National Forest. These employment opportunities and the monies for the schools were lost with the Federal Government deciding to eliminate the sale of government owned timber.

As more people found Valley County a great place to live and recreate, the nature of the population utilizing the Forest began to change. These folks from out of State do not understand the use of our historic use of our National Forests and prefer to keep them as primitive as possible. Their methods are at odds with the philosophy of most native Idahoans.

I and most of my colleagues heartily support the Stibnite Gold Project for the following reasons:

1. This project will bring employment opportunities to approximately 500 individuals for more than a decade into the future.
2. This influx of salaries into the communities located in and near the Payette National Forest will greatly supplement the seasonal recreation economy and provide our communities the ability to enhance the education opportunities of our Idaho children.
3. The company that has developed the Stibnite Gold Project will correct many of the environmental disasters of the past. This is an issue that the government and the environmentalists have failed to correct to date and for the foreseeable future. It would be a shame to pass on this opportunity, for I do not see another in our economic future.
4. Climate change has done more to reduce the migration of the salmon and steelhead population than any gold mining project. This proposal gives us the chance to improve the fish habitat and mitigate some of the fish issues of the past to include climate change.

The naysayers of this project complain about the 'risk' involved with gold mining and destruction of the environment. I say it is worth the risk to put people to work, improve the education of our kids and improve the infrastructure of the communities in and around the Payette National Forest. The State of Idaho has more primitive area than any State excepting Alaska. It is time we used a small piece of it to improve the living standards of our population. It would appear to me that the plan for the Stibnite Gold Project is designed to minimize those risks.