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First name: Kara

Last name: Weld

Organization:

Title:

Comments: My name is Kara Weld and my family and I moved to Hood River, Oregon 2 years ago from West Virginia. I grew up in Western Pennsylvania and we have 2 businesses there currently, now one here in Oregon/Washington. Our primary business is manufacturing outdoor gear, specifically for whitewater kayaking. My husband and I have spent almost our entire lives centered on kayaking. I raced on the US National Team for over 20 years and my husband ran kayaking expeditions from Baffin Island to Malaysia before starting our business. Through these opportunities we have developed a deep appreciation, love and concern for rivers and the outdoors. We also have 2 sons and therefore are very invested in protecting what we cherish for their future and beyond.

Along with our love of the outdoors, we recognize the value of tourism to an economy. Back in WV and PA we saw the direct affect of cleaning up the rivers, creating access and the building of bike trails has on the once, until very recently poor, run down and depressed former coal mining and logging towns. Our 2nd business is renting vacation homes in one of the formally depressed towns that has been completely revitalized by the recreation opportunities provided by the rivers and trails. From whitewater rafting, fishing, hunting, biking, hiking to all the cafes, restaurants, b&bs, antique stores, wineries and other businesses that have been created to serve the new customers that the rivers and trails have brought to town. People from every state and worldwide now visit our area.

We are very concerned as business owners when important recreational opportunities are at risk. The South Salmon is one of best kayaking and rafting rivers in the United States. While I could point out a laundry list of concerns with the current DEIS, I would like to focus on the recreational impacts.

It is noted in the DEIS that the local communities rely heavily on tourism to support their economies" and that "[t]he analysis area is a popular area for a variety of recreation activities on both private and public lands," yet there is no report, information, or analysis on how the Stibnite proposal will affect tourism, recreation, or the related economic benefits to local communities. A supplemental report and information are needed accordingly. Sources noted in the DEIS are out of date (many are 2003 and 2010) in the context of Idaho experiencing a population boom, and its residents holding high value in recreation opportunities.

For example, Cited on pg. 615 "Recreation is considered a major use in the Big Creek area of PNF MA 13 (Forest Service 2003a)," is cited using a 2003 reference (17 years out of date). Per the National Forest Management Act and ROS, the FS is required to provide recreation opportunities.

As Idaho is currently the fastest growing state in the nation since 2016 and it is noted that current and inbound residents value recreation highly (a motivating factor in their move to this state) (census.gov, 2020; Foy, 2020; Raphelson, 2017; Men's Journal, 2019), please include and disclose more recent resources for recreation use analysis of this area in a supplemental DEIS in order to inform substantial and informed comments. ?

Idaho's Recreation and tourism generates \$7.8 billion in consumer spending and support 78,000 jobs; 79% of Idaho's residents participate in outdoor recreation; and recreation opportunities is a recruitment tool for businesses used to attract and retain workers (Source: Bureau of Economic Analysis, 2018; Idaho Business for the Outdoors, 2020).

Recreation and tourism are a big deal locally, state-wide, and nationally and thus, please provide the missing information on impacts to recreation and recreation and tourism economies as related to the Stibnite Alternatives and a management plan and contingencies for the recreation in the area per each alternative.

As I stated in my opening paragraph, I have seen and benefited from what recreation can do for a town, county, state and country. Idaho can not afford to lose what it already has, especially when you consider the short term

"benefit" of extraction verses the long term affect of tourism dollars and that starts with protecting and preserving our most precious resource.

Thanks in advance for your time and consideration.