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Organization:

Title:

Comments: October 26 2020

Linda Jackson

Payette Forest Supervisor

500 N. Mission Street, Building 2

McCall, Idaho, 83638-3805

Stibnite Gold Project DEIS

Dear Ms. Jackson:

Our names are Samuel Stoddard and Veronica Silva Soto. We are permanent residents of Valley County and own a home near Cascade. Veronica grew up in Chile, (now a US citizen), so is very familiar with the mining industry and it's socioeconomic pros and cons. I spent my entire working life in construction including 32 years on industrial projects. Fifteen years of my construction career were on mining projects around the world many of which are very similar to the Stibnite Gold Project including the Pascua Lama Project on the border of Chile and Argentina. Though my involvement there was somewhat limited and short term due to retirement I became very familiar with Barrick Gold and to this day continue to follow that project and Barrick's performance in general.

As you know Barrick Gold is one of the stockholders in Midas Gold and could very well be the entity that does the actual mining if the SGP does in fact get approved. Barrick's environmental record is well known around the world both in the mining industry and for those who follow environmental events and news. Related to that is the fact, of which I am also sure you are aware, that Midas Gold is an exploration company and not a mining company. They have neither the experience nor the resources to execute a project the magnitude of the SGP but will either sell to or partner with one of the large multinational mining companies like Barrick if the project is approved and goes forward.

With Veronica having grown up in an economy that is very reliant on the mining industry and myself having spent 15 years of my career working on mining projects we are not anti-mining. On the contrary, we are in favor of mining for the right metals for the right reasons and when it's done responsibly. Therefore, we find it impossible to support a project that is for the extraction of principally gold which has the following industry demand percentages: jewelry 48.5%, investment and banking 44% and technology 7.5%.

We will not spend time trying to convince you of the importance of the area where this project is located since given your position we are sure you are well aware of this special part of our state not to mention our river system. The Stoddard family from which I come are Idaho natives for 5 generations. They started in the lumber industry in the Island Park area of Eastern Idaho so we are no strangers to Idaho's legacy of mining and logging and are in fact proud of it. However, having grown up in this special place we also highly value the beautiful and unique nature of Idaho and that we have managed to preserve the largest wilderness area in the continental United States. I floated the Middle Fork of The Salmon River with my father in 1964 when I was 12 years old before permits were required. These are the type of memories that I want my grandchildren and great grandchildren to have of Idaho. Not the vision of a 425 acre tailings impound sitting next to the Frank Church River Of No Return Wilderness Area and on the headwaters of one of the most important and beautiful rivers in Idaho. There is also the thought that it will still be there for their great grandchildren to live with, and theirs, and theirs and..... Worse yet is the knowledge of what could happen if the tailings dam fails.

Ms. Jackson, we urge the Forest Service and our government to do the right thing and reject the project based on the very obvious cost/benefit evaluation for our State and the information and impacts pointed out in this DEIS.

Lastly, we find it indefensible that we, the citizens, were only given 2 1/2 months to review and comment on this highly complex and lengthy document after the Forest Service had 3 years to prepare it and Midas Gold had 10 years to prepare the supporting documents.

Thank you for your consideration of our concerns. Our detailed comments and questions are attached.

Veronica Silva Soto Samuel Stoddard