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First name: Larry

Last name: Hauder

Organization:

Title:

Comments: I sent this letter to the this address last evening and did not see the instructions to remove personally identified data from my letter. Please use this letter and not the one I sent last night with personal info. Thank you!

Oct. 26, 2018

Concerns regarding the draft EIS on the Stibnite Gold Project

I am a full-time resident of McCall, a property owner in Valley County, and a property owner in Boise. I have children and grandchildren who also live in McCall. I, along with my wife, attend the Episcopal Church in McCall and together we are involved in the community. Currently, I am on the McCall Parks and Recreation Advisory Board. We've been residents in Ada and Valley County since 1977.

Topics of concern related to the draft EIS on the Stibnite Gold Project

1. Extend the public comment time for the draft EIS on the Stibnite Gold Project by at least 75 days for a total of 120 days. An extension from the required 45 days for a DEIS under the Forest Service's regulations 36 CFR 215.25 (a)(1)(ii) is required to be able to provide adequate time to have meaningful public participation. The draft EIS is long and complicated. More time is needed to fully engage the public, myself included. The potential negative implications for all Idahoans, and especially for Native Americans, are too great to rush.

2. Hazardous materials will require year-round shipments of thousands of tons of toxic chemicals, explosives, gasoline, and diesel fuel. These are the same routes my family drives on a near-weekly basis. On December 19, 2019, my wife and I were on a trip to Boise when a large, speeding truck hit us, knocking us off highway 55 totaling our car. We are fortunate to be alive. The travel routes for this project follow the Payette, Weiser, Salmon, and Little Salmon River network. The DEIS does not analyze the spill risk on these state highways, backcountry roads, and waterways. The DEIS contains no plan to clean up a spill which will surely need to be considered based on the accident rate and increased traffic on all these roads. The assumption that 91 meters from access routes contain all-important fish habitat potentially impacted by spills is arbitrary and capricious. Boise is and the Treasure Valley continues to be on a list of the fastest-growing areas in the nation. Increased traffic, marginal road conditions, inclement weather, is a major consideration that needs further research and consideration.

3. Reclamation materials/soils is inconsistent and lacks clarity. There needs to be a fully fleshed out reclamation plan in the DEIS. Within the last 2 weeks, my wife and I took day trips to Warren and Yellow Pine, Idaho. What is the first and lasting impression upon visiting these areas? The mine tailings an eyesore, the landscape scarred, and the obvious and devastating impact on fish and wildlife remains. I was extremely disappointed DEIS offered no detail and no water treatment plan, and most importantly, the major liners for containing hazardous materials needed much more development. How effective are the liners? No evidence was provided. The surface water, high groundwater levels left me searching for more data.

With appreciation for your consideration of my concerns,

Larry