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First name: Jack

Last name: Mitchell

Organization:

Title:

Comments: To whom it may concern,

My name is Jack Mitchell, I am a resident of Pocatello, Idaho. I write primarily to urge an extension of the public comment period for the DEIS for the Stibnite Mine Project from 75 days to 120 days. This DEIS is long, took two years to prepare, and has a lot of shortcomings that require time for the public to read through and comment upon in a meaningful way. Second, I urge the USFS to choose the non-action alternative.

#### EXTENSION OF COMMENT PERIOD

The Payette National Forest did not offer printed copies of the DEIS to the general public; the Forest made the DEIS available in electronic form only. The failure to provide printed copies arbitrarily excludes a significant portion of the public from participation in the DEIS process.

If a person doesn't have a good computer, reliable Internet service, and enough computer skill to negotiate the document - the DEIS is essentially unavailable. Additionally, it is well-documented that Internet access is much more limited for families that are low-income, rural, American Indian/Alaska Native, Black , or Latino, compared to more affluent white families. The Payette National Forest's failure to provide printed copies hinders public participation and is an abuse of discretion, discriminatory, and unethical.

#### CHOOSE NON ACTION ALTERNATIVE

The proposed Stibnite Mine Project results in too large an impact on the South Fork Salmon watershed, its protected fish species, the economies and people who rely on them for livelihood and recreation. The economic promises of Midas Gold are flimsy, and the people of Idaho want jobs that are sustainable for generations, not just 20 years promised by Midas Gold. Our ecotourism and fisheries jobs are far more sustainable and do not result in negative water quality and fisheries impacts. 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).

The USFS has a duty to "protect the best and restore the rest". Much of the Stibnite footprint is in undisturbed habitat. The USFS must analyze an alternative to minimize the mine footprint that is contained only to previously disturbed areas.

Furthermore, the USFS should make sure to: not put mining waste - new or old - or build new roads- in undisturbed habitat; not conduct activities that are likely to mobilize additional arsenic such as blasting waste rock and grinding rock into tailings; not bring millions of gallons of diesel fuel, cyanide and other chemicals to the site. Instead, future projects should reconnect habitat, isolate historic mine waste from streams, and restore degraded riparian areas.

Thank you for your consideration

Jack Mitchell

Pocatello, ID