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Stibnite Gold Project

Within a year after moving to Idaho in 1976, while out exploring the back roads, I came across the remnants of the Stibnite mining activity, and was appalled at the ruin and devastation of the abandoned activity. Subsequent Federal government cleanup efforts have helped ameliorate some of the damage, but some of the scars may never disappear, despite Mother Nature's continuing best efforts. As a taxpayer, I am extremely resentful of having to fund the cleanup of a mess created by those operators who showed such disdain for the environment, especially when the cleanup funds woulda, coulda have been used for positive uses elsewhere.

Now, along comes another company who wants to restart the rape and pillage, and desecrate the land all over again, and I, for one, am vehemently opposed to an authorization of any form that would permit them to do so. Rather than permitting such an endeavor, we should be doing more to protect the resources of this area, and build upon the reclamation successes achieved to date. Vital spawning grounds for Bull Trout and anadromous fish desperately need to be protected, habitat for wild game needs to be preserved, and recreationists would surely be pleased to not have their serenity interrupted by the frequent, if not constant, noise and dust of heavy haulers, and the usual din that accompanies mining activity. The value of clean air and clean water cannot be overstated!

Mining companies over the years have been, at best, poor stewards of the land. Despite their many promises, history shows that they do not live up to their commitments -- nothing I've seen or heard has convinced me that this proposed project wouldn't suffer that same fate.

Having previously attended a couple of Government-sponsored open house "informational meetings", I have been more than a bit dismayed upon witnessing the bulk of the proceedings conducted by mining representatives offering up grandiose plans that comes off more like over-blown hype. Then, it comes to light that the mining company itself has principal authorship of the Forest Service's project evaluation -- kinda like "holding the gate open, laying down the red carpet, and ushering the fox into the hen house". If the Forest Service is too overworked, or incapable of, doing its own evaluation, it should, at the very least, contract the evaluation to an outside independent organization -- anything less, would appear to be dereliction of duty.

The malfeasance embodied in this program to date needs to come to a halt NOW! Let's just totally scrap this project and move forward on projects more worthwhile.

Respectfully submitted,