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Organization:

Title:

Comments: To Whom It May Concern:

I am a resident of both McCall and Stanley and am an outfitter on the Main Salmon river. I'm writing with concern regarding the Stibnite mining project. While I understand the desire to mine gold and antimony from the area, my concerns are over the negative impact to the environment in the area, specifically to the water and wildlife. Mining projects are known to release acid and toxic metal ions into groundwater and surface water. Groundwater quality and quantity will be adversely impacted by the project. These impacts will then affect surface water which in turn affects aquatic organisms. Groundwater and surface water have many interactions and should be thought of as two parts of a single integrated system, the primary distinction between the two being the time scales of their respective processes. Modeling in the DEIS shows that arsenic, antimony, mercury, and other metals will contaminate water for many years after mine closure. Keep in mind this detrimental prediction likely represents a best-case scenario.

Time after time this has happened in Idaho, while the mining companies dissolve and the onus of cleanup is left to taxpayers. When will it end? When will we begin putting the health of the environment first? As someone who makes a living off of Idaho's pristine waterways and has seen the negative effects of mining in Idaho, I feel compelled to speak out against the Stibnite project.

Sincerely,

Heather Scheel