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Organization:

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Comments:

As a resident of McCall, I am opposed to all alternatives in the Stibnite Gold Project Draft Environmental Impact Statement. I would like to see a new alternative that does not allow mining and instead, actually restores the site.

I have read the Executive Summary and Chapters 3 and 4, and I am disheartened by the adverse impacts proposed, particularly as they relate to ESA-listed species. Specifically, predicted impacts to water quality, including increased water temperatures and toxic metal pollutants, are incongruent with ESA-listed fish recovery. An additional concern is in regards to the spill risk of hazardous material. Though the DEIS suggests the chance of a spill happening is unlikely, the consequences could be catastrophic and far-reaching. There is no way to truly mitigate this risk other than prohibiting mining at the site.

Furthermore, impacts to natural resources (especially fish) as well as prohibiting access on the Nez Perce Tribe's ceded territory are violations of treaty rights. The proposal to decimate critical fish habitat, particularly in the case of Meadow Creek, is unacceptable. The proposal to forbid public access for tribal members is unjust. The Tribe's right to fish, hunt, gather and practice traditional ceremonies on their ancestral homelands must persist without compromise.

This sensitive and irreplaceable watershed is valuable in ways far greater than mineral resources and is not the place to destroy for gold, silver and antimony. Please prohibit the Stibnite Gold Project, and then clean up the site.