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Comments: The Snake River Fund, a 501(c)(3) not for profit corporation based in Jackson, Wyoming requests the applications for the Stibnite Gold Mine project be rejected.

While our organization is not based in Idaho or the immediate vicinity of this project, we recognize that rivers connect people, cultures, wildlife, and fisheries. The South Fork of the Salmon River is a remarkable river for its mostly intact habitat, outstanding native fishery (containing Bull Trout and wild Chinook Salmon, and other species) and unparalleled recreation opportunities. Gold mining in the northern Rockies has a long standing legacy of destroying habitat, creating toxic tailings, unsuitable water quality standards at the site and far down stream. Even in the day and age when technology allows us to extract resources in a more responsible manner, economics seldom allows this to happen.

The economic engine of the Salmon River system is based in recreation and tourism. This is a sustainable industry that will continue long after today's residents and visitors are gone. Idaho has the ability to generate revenue from recreation on the South Fork of the Salmon and in the region in perpetuity. The royalties from the Stibnite project will last but a decade or two. The environmental degradation will likely also last in perpetuity. For this reason alone, the project should be rejected. The long range economic engine is not in mineral extraction. It is in a pristine environment that supports recreation, tourism and native fisheries.

Please reject all applications for the Stibnite Gold Project. It is flawed. It is the wrong project in the wrong location.

Best Regards,
Jared Baecker
Executive Director
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