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Organization:

Title:

Comments: To Whom It May Concern:

I am an educator living in McCall and I am writing to you with my concerns regarding the DEIS for the proposed Stibnite Gold Project.

Recreation Impacts

As noted in the DEIS, the area that would be impacted by the project is valued as a destination for recreation and tourism. The DEIS presents an inadequate analysis of the impacts of the project on recreational users and the revenue streams to local economies from recreation and tourism.

One concern I have as someone who enjoys hiking and biking in the area is that there is no assurance that the water downstream of the proposed mine would be safe for drinking or cooking even after being filtered. Will it contain harmful levels of the toxic chemicals used in the mining process? For how long? How can we be sure the water is safe to drink?

Social and Economic Impacts

As a resident of McCall, I am also concerned about the impact that the proposed project would have on our community's housing as well as the public school system. The DEIS offers no solutions for the strain the project would put on local housing and schools. The 'bust' that would accompany the close of the project is even more concerning. Again, this issue is cited (4.21-31...4.21-35) but no mitigation is provided for in the DEIS.

The proposed project would fundamentally alter every aspect of life in Valley County as well as the local ecosystem yet there is too little consideration given to the toll it would take on local residents and natural resources. The assumptions underlying this DEIS - that the proposed Stibnite Gold Project is desirable to local residents and that the risks are worth the purported "reward" - are flawed. We deserve to be presented with a better plan that works hard to protect what is valued and valuable here.

Sincerely,

Maura Goldstein