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Organization:
Title:
Comments: I have significant concerns about the impact of this project on the ecology and economy of our region. I have lived in the area for the past 20 years and work in the field of environmental education. My comments come from a position of understanding the ecology of the area and living the reality of the economy here.

I am concerned about the impact of this project on stream temperatures. The draft EIS indicates that stream temperatures are likely to increase as a result of this project (DEIS Appx J2). Our Idaho rivers and streams are already facing concerning temperature increases because of declining snowpack and decreased summer streamflow due to global climate change. Adding another stress to this system seems extremely unwise and incompatible with supporting Chinook salmon and Bulltrout living in this sensitive system.

I am additionally concerned with the economic impact of this project. Though the project will create new jobs in the area, the life cycle of those jobs is around 10 years. This sets up our community for another "boom and bust" cycle at a time when many other more sustainable job growth options exist. The town of New Meadows indicated that though they are enthusiastic about new jobs, they will need support to be able to deal with the rapid growth of their community. This support would have to include affordable housing and water/sewer infrastructure. These would be great improvements to the community, but they must come with resources to sustain them after the "bust".I am concerned that in10 years these jobs will go away, and with them, the people who have supported the new growth in the community.This seems avoidable if resources were to go to developing another more sustainable industry.

Finally, I am concerned about the increased road traffic and erosion from roads in the South Fork Salmon area. This increased traffic will negatively impact the character of that region, for little actual benefit in the end.

Thank you for your consideration of these comments.