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Organization:

Title:

Comments: I write to provide informed local comment on the proposed Stibnite Gold Mine(SGP).

I have lived in McCall Idaho for 42 years and have a vested interest in the preservation of the ecosystem of the East Fork South Fork, the South Fork Salmon and the Main Salmon Rivers as well as the interdependent terrestrial and aquatic environment. The Salmon River and its tributaries represent an important sense of place to me, my children and grandchild. We have spent valuable family time rafting and camping along the Salmon River and/or its tributaries. The unspoiled nature of these rivers is at the heart of my life in Idaho.

Also, having worked as medical professional in the McCall area for 40 +years, I am also concerned about the health risks and potential injury for travelers, recreationists, Forest Service and Midas Gold employees as a consequence of the SGP and the lack of preparedness in the event of a catastrophe.

First, I request you extend the comment period. The present comment period is simply too short for me, and the majority of the general public, to navigate the DEIS, consider relevant sections and write substantive comment. This document is a highly complex mining proposal and seems purposely intimidating to read as well as being very disorganized and confusing. The Covid-19 pandemic has reduced opportunity for public hearings making written comment the only remaining method for public input. Under these circumstances, the choice of a 75 day comment period instead of 120 days, is not in the public interest.

I am very concerned about the impact that the mine will have on the following:

1. Local economy. The DEIS presents an inadequate characterization of the Valley County economy and fails to consider the true potential for economic cost created by the project. Our natural resources presently provide an attractive, healthy and growing economy. The attractiveness and recreation opportunities of Valley and Adams counties are key contributors to the vitality of our local economy. Therefore, it follows that a reduction in the beauty and access to recreation caused by the SGP will have economic costs. The DEIS alludes to this issue when it discusses recreation access to the mine site, guiding areas and road use but does not clearly address the real overall role of recreation in the area economy nor describe or model potential costs of the project. (3.19 beginning on pg.603) Please provide information on impacts to economic and social cultural benefits of recreation to local communities and state, national and international visitors in a supplemental DEIS that can be reviewed.

2. Housing. The DEIS identifies problem with affordable housing for people moving into the area to take comparatively low-wage indirect and induced jobs (4-21-13) As a result, if there is an insufficient existing inventory of suitable housing within the affected communities, it is possible that adverse affordable housing availability impacts could result from Alternative 1 construction activities. The prediction is a population increase of 438 new residents to the area. There is already a current housing crisis with 59% of Valley County households paying more than 30% of their income on housing. With population increase, local housing demand will only increase. There will be a greater scarcity of affordable housing and higher prices for real estate. Please provide a mitigation plan for the exacerbation of this local crisis.

3. Preparedness for Health Emergency The DEIS addresses the potential health risks/concerns related to exposure to hazardous pollutants resulting from SGP activities .(3.18-2) In addition to hazards .from pollutant-impacted environmental media, the existing terrain and characteristics of the environment can present certain natural hazards to public health and safety, such as:

[bull] Steep terrain and rock cliffs

[bull] Avalanches and landslides

[bull] Flash floods and water hazards [bull] Wildfires.(3.18-2)

In discussing the local Emergency Medical Services and Fire Protection and local government's responsibility, the DEIS describes the primary responsibility as responding to the incident to preserve life and property. It is important to realize the limitations of an expedient response to a health emergency or catastrophe with the nearest health care facilities 50 miles(McCall) and 68 miles(Cascade) away. It is also imperative that the hospitals and health care professionals be prepared for the specific types of hazardous material exposures they may be asked to treat. There is no indication in the DEIS of any local collaboration with the health care facilities or professionals to plan for potential health care emergencies at the hospitals or project site or any related accidents involving hazardous materials related to the SGP.

Please provide evidence of collaboration with local health care providers and facilities that specifically addresses a plan for expedient and specific care for health emergencies relate to the SGP.

I appreciate your consideration of the concerns I have addressed and thank you for the opportunity to comment on this very impactful proposal.