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Comments: I am writing to request an extension of the 75-day public comment period (to a total of 120 days) for the Stibnite Gold Project Supplemental Draft Environmental Impact Statement (SDEIS). The current comment period, which spans multiple public holidays and leaves very limited time for most of us to review the published SDEIS, is prohibitively short regarding our abilities to deliver informed comments to the Forest Service. An extended review period will allow me personally to better understand how the proposed mining project may affect my interaction with the area in question-and relay that information accurately in my subsequent comments.

As a whitewater kayaker and student of natural resource conservation, I care deeply about the Stibnite area both for its recreational opportunities and what it represents in anadromous fish habitat; both are resources I am immensely concerned about seeing compromised. Although I live in Montana, I make annual trips to the South Fork Salmon drainage for its world-class river running, and am continually awe-struck by the area's natural beauty. It is absolutely essential that these public lands are protected to provide clean air, water, habitat, and recreational and cultural resources for generations to come.

The proposed mine, which is incredibly controversial, is also highly complex and risks damage to the South Fork of the Salmon River watershed. A 120-day comment period would best serve me and the people who are connected to this area, and is consistent with the primary purposes of NEPA. The Forest Service has allowed longer comment periods for large mining proposals that were not close to wilderness areas and did not threaten salmon and steelhead. Additionally, the project has changed since the draft EIS, and there is a preferred alternative with significant landscape alterations, which will take additional time and resources to review.

Sincere thanks for your time and consideration of this request!