

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 12/6/2022 3:08:01 PM

First name: Darcy

Last name: Gaechter

Organization:

Title:

Comments: Dear Forest Service,

I'm writing regarding the Stibnite Gold Project SDEIS and more specifically regarding the comment period.

I'm asking that you extend the comment period to 120 days (rather than the 75 days).

An extended review will help to better understand how the proposed mining project may affect your interaction with the area. And how it will affect tourism in the area, specifically fishing and the ability for Idaho residents to get out and enjoy nature, which are two of my bigger concerns.

My grandparents lived in Idaho City and my family spent many months along the South Fork Salmon camping, fishing and just enjoying the natural beauty of the area. More recently, I have spent roughly 20-30 days each spring and summer hiking in the mountains near Yellow Pine and kayaking the East Fork South Fork and the South Fork Salmon River. This region was very important to my formative years and I feel that it is essential that these public lands provide clean air and water for generations to come.

The proposed mine is 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.

Additionally, I know that the proposed mine is very controversial and has the potential to harm resources of high public interest. 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. And, 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.

Thank you for taking my comments and my request for a 120-day comment period into consideration.

Darcy Gaechter

darcygaechter@gmail.com