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Organization:

Title:

Comments: I live in Idaho, work as a fly fishing guide and recreate on our public lands. I understand the complexities of managing these lands and the multiple use concepts and laws. While mining has its place on public lands, the location of the Stidbite mine is not a site which should be reopened and expanded for mining simply to allow for profit from Gold mining. This mines material is not an essential mineral to be used for National Security or address needs to help reduce carbon footprint by alternative energy use, such as a cobalt mine.

For over 25 years of the project's lifespan, there will be year-round mine traffic. Nearly 40 miles of remote USFS roads will be transformed into an industrial backcountry highway, with an average of 50 to 65 heavy vehicles using the route daily. Fifteen miles of this new road will be constructed in a designated "roadless" area, with some sections running only yards from the Frank Church River of No Return Wilderness. Noise from operations would be audible up to almost two miles away. In other words, just the construction plans alone will dramatically alter this special place and the wildlife that lives there.

Mining has a terrible legacy of toxic clean-up needs required, when the mines environmental protection systems fail or the company goes bankrupt and the cost is passed onto the tax payer.

The potential for this mine to impact the wildlife and fisheries in this basin is significant.

I ask you to deny approval of this mine to preserve and protect the wildlife, roadless area, fisheries and cold water refugees which will become more vital as climate change accelerates and impacts public lands.

Thank you for your efforts to manage and protect our public lands while allowing reasonable resource uses within those lands.

Kind Regards

Ed Northen