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First name: Mark

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Organization:

Title:

Comments: To whom it may concern,

I'm writing to assert my opposition to the Stibnite Gold Project based on the most recently released SDEIS. My concerns are many.

First, it appears that even in any best-case scenario, the proposed project would negatively impact Nez Perce tribal hunting, fishing, and foraging rights as guaranteed by the Treaty of 1855. This is partly due to the closure to the public of Payette National Forest lands within the proposed footprint, and partly due to the damage to the fisheries and wildlife resources the project would bring about. For example, as per the SDEIS, stream temperatures in the East Fork South Fork Salmon, home to Endangered Species listed Chinook salmon, steelhead, and bull trout, are predicted to be elevated above existing baseline conditions for up to 100 years - when vegetation can (prospectively, not guaranteed, especially given the condition of the riparian areas post-extraction) reestablish adequate shade in riparian areas to effectively regulate and lower in-stream temperatures to a regime approaching the natural condition of the watershed. Additionally, the baseline conditions to which I just referred reflect an area heavily impacted by many decades of mining already - not a healthy, thriving segment of wild fish spawning and rearing habitat. True restoration would return the site to conditions matching other reaches of the EFSF, not those at the mine site.

I also have serious reservations about plans for tailings and overburden storage. Some in particular are the loss of currently unimpacted wetlands and riparian areas within the Meadow Creek valley. Due to the proposed liner-contained storage in this area, this important groundwater reserve will be lost. This will certainly negatively affect streamflows in not just Meadow Creek, but also the East Fork South Fork.

I also have concerns that both the Johnson Creek and Burnt Log proposed access routes to the project would also have negative impacts on wildlife on National Forest land, and that the Burnt Log route's impacts would be in part upon the adjacent Frank Church-River of No Return Wilderness.

I'm concerned that air quality would be unacceptably harmed by the project, due to arsenic and particulate matter from dust inevitably produced and disturbed by mining operations and roads.

Thanks for your time and consideration.