

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 1/5/2023 9:16:25 PM

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Organization:

Title:

Comments: Re: Stibnite Gold Project EIS #50516

To Whom It May Concern,

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on Stibnite Gold Project EIS #50516. I am passionately opposed to the Stibnite Gold Project. As a citizen of Idaho who recreates frequently in the Payette National Forest and the Salmon River system, I visit Valley County to recreate, but also contribute to the economic vitality of the area.

There are several reasons for the U.S. Forest Service to stop the Stibnite mine:

1. History proves that mines of this size end up polluting water and land resources. "According to a review of 27 modern gold mining operations in the U.S. by Earthworks (Missoula MT), accounting for 93% of domestic production, 100% experienced at least one pipeline spill or other accidental release of cyanide, diesel, tailings or ore concentrate." (Idaho Headwaters Economic Study Group, 2022) The East Fork South Fork Salmon River is important to salmon recovery as well as maintaining Idaho's wonderful wildlands.
2. The communities surrounding Stibnite mine are highly dependent on tourism, recreation and natural landscapes. The Idaho Headwaters Economic Study Group, 2022, states, "The average "bonus" to Valley County residents from living near these amenities is \$7,400 a year per person, compared to other nonmetropolitan counties in Idaho."
3. Valley County infrastructure will be greatly impacted by population increases due to mine operations, burdening schools, housing, roads, etc. However, profits from the proposed Stibnite mine would flow to a foreign owned entity, not the local community. According to the Idaho Headwaters Economic Study Group, 2022, "The only "local" fiscal benefit to Valley County is \$300,000 in annual property taxes once the mine is active. This will not cover the increased cost that the mine will impose on Valley County."

In summary, the Stibnite mining presents unpredictable and dramatic changes to the sustainable natural environment and charming communities Idaho citizens cherish and depend upon. Therefore, the U.S. Forest Service must stop the Stibnite mine.

Sincerely,

Jennifer J. Bond