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Comments: Thank you for this opportunity to comment on the Stibnite Gold Project EIS #50516, a project to mine gold, silver, and antimony deposits west of McCall, Idaho.

I am actually shocked that the USFS is considering yet another project like this in one of the most beautiful, popular, and wild parts of Idaho. What a shame that the USFS believes the best use of these public lands is allowing a mining company to cause more environmental damage. Instead of considering another proposal, the USFS should be enforcing previous requirements to clean up and restore areas already degraded by mining in this area. This is how mining companies get out of doing the clean-up and restoration that is always promised but seldom happens as was explained in permitting documents. To restore public trust in the ability of the USFS to manage our public lands for the public, it is time to require complete restoration, not more mining.

I've certainly been to enough places in Idaho where mining companies still have not restored the clean water as promised. Instead, signs along streams and rivers warn people not to allow their dogs to drink the water. Meanwhile, our wonderful wildlife must drink this water, swim in these waters, etc. The promises for this project are empty promises until we see real clean-up of areas previously damaged and degraded.

When the Wilderness Act was passed, the intent was to keep some places wild forever, for future generations. The USFS has a mandate to make sure this intent is carried out for the people of this country. This proposal includes impacts including a road that and road construction and mining operations that will degrade the adjacent River of No Return Wilderness. Why would the USFS even consider this mine being built this close to this wilderness is a compatible use? The destruction from this project, directly, to the land and waters and to the vegetation and wildlife and fish will negatively impact the River of No Return Wilderness. This is one of the most valuable Wilderness Areas in this country, for wildlife, for fish including endangered species such as Chinook salmon, and for humans who need and use wild places more than ever. Our need for wild places like this Wilderness Area and the surrounding public lands is far greater than what the public will receive if this STibnite Gold Project is approved. Again, who is the USFS serving, private mining companies or the public?

The East Fork of the South Fork of the Salmon River and the endangered species of fish who depend on this river are far more important than more mining of gold and silver. The Chinook salmon, steelhead and bull trout require and need our protection far more than this company needs to make more money by destroying our public lands.

The area where this project is located will be degraded with noise and traffic and disturbance during construction and during the operation of this mine. Humans looking for places to relax and enjoy nature will be displaced as will the wildlife and fish. To do this in what is now one of the most beautiful and quiet areas in this country is unacceptable. The USFS should know this after so much has been said about the value of public lands that are left undisturbed. These land will help the economy of Idaho, not another mine. The now remote USFS roads will no longer be remote.

Instead, the plan predicts as many as 3,000 trips a year on roads to carry hazardous materials and infrastructure that will cover almost 30,000 acres.

New housing will also be built which will add yet another disturbance year around bringing yet more traffic to what is now a remote and quiet area. This is the wrong place for a "cyanide vat leach gold mine".

All of this disturbance and destruction could last 25 years, according to the time period given. This is the rest of the lives of many human folks and wildlife and fish. This may also be longer than the company proposing this will

be around to take care of this project, see that it complies with promises made, and certainly longer than this company may be able to do the required clean-up and restoration. This is too long to trust anything that is said today. Gold and silver prices go up and down. This will dictate the company's interest in this project, not anything the USFS puts in paperwork about rules, regulations, clean-up and restoration.

The question of the location of the road and whether it will be inside the Wilderness Area should concern the USFS. Most USFS offices plan buffers around Wilderness Areas rather than consider projects like this at the edge and maybe inside of a designated Wilderness Area. This is one of our country's best and wildest Wilderness Areas. I am shocked that this USFS office and forest does not understand how much the public values our wild places, our wildlife and our wild fish.

I suggest that the USFS think more about the value of public lands and Wilderness Areas to the public, the people the USFS should be serving. Enough of Idaho's beautiful and wild places have been degraded by mining companies, often with the help of the USFS. Today we are facing a different world. The public no longer believes the mining companies or the USFS. We do love our public lands and we want them protected for our fish and wildlife, and for humans.

Thanks for reading these comments,

From Martha Hall

A hiker and wildlife watcher who loves Idaho's wild places.