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Organization:

Title:

Comments: Dear Forest Supervisor,

I want to take the opportunity during this public comment window to voice my opposition to the Stibnite Gold Project. Before the Environmental Impact Statement this was a bad idea, and after looking over the survey, this is still a bad idea. I am a second generation Idahoan, I grew up in McCall. We love our rivers, we love our mountains, we love our land. I have left the state to live in other areas as an adult and nothing quite compares to Idaho and the land & rivers we have here. It always draws me back. Idahos greatest natural resource is the nature and the experiences you can have in it. I am concerned this project will negatively affect our precious fisheries. It will change the Salmon Rivers an impact the recreation that happens on these rivers. On top of that it will rape the land of its beauty. Also, as someone who grew up in valley county I am very concerned about the impact of the transportation of Hazardous materials through the area. Why has no-one looked at the repercussions and effects of this? What if a spill happens?

As proposed, the SGP raises numerous concerns for rivers protected under the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act (WSRA). The project itself is located at the headwaters of the suitable South Salmon River, which feeds directly into the designated Main Salmon River. However, the scope of analysis does not include any potential impacts that extend downstream of the site boundary to review these sections of river. Additionally, Johnson Creek and Burntlog Creek, both eligible under the WSRA, will both face degradation and risk of a catastrophic toxic spill if this project moves forward. Recreation, in any form, within the general area of the mine will be negatively impacted. The analysis of impacts on recreation is arbitrarily limited to a 5-mile radius from major mine features and does not include any discussion of traffic displaced to the South Salmon Road and Lick Creek Road that will logically result from this project.

Finally, the SGP will negatively impact the treaty-reserved rights of the Nez Perce and other indigenous peoples of Idaho. The SDEIS clearly states that "Adverse impacts to tribal rights and interests under either alternative, including preventing access to traditional lands, harming traditional fishing and hunting rights, impacting endangered salmon and concerns that it would harm the tribe's salmon restoration efforts".

For these reasons, I urge the Forest Service to protect the Salmon River watershed and reject the proposed Stibnite mine plan. We have one of the greatest wilderness areas in the Lower 48 in our backyard, let's keep it that way.