

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 1/7/2023 6:16:41 PM

First name: Rene

Last name: Jungert

Organization:

Title:

Comments: January 5, 2023

TO: Linda Jackson

Payette Forest Supervisor USFS

Payette National Forest 500 N Mission St

McCall Idaho 83638

I am writing this letter in regards to the Stibnite environmental impact and your plans on modifying the mine on the Stibnite Gold Project.

As your letter states, there is a smaller foot print, improves water and reduces steam temperatures. Those three things are what should be of great concern.

Your proposal has a lot of glitter to it such as:

jobs for children and friends living in Riggins

The fish by pass

Apprenticeship

reprocess tailings

work so kids can go to the Riggins school

and not relying on China or Russia for antimony.

I was in a city counsel meeting when a woman presented your plan. I asked where your company was from and she said Idaho.

That little white lie peaked my interest. Your company is a Canadian company and you opened up an Idaho branch. So why lie about it in the first place?

Our Salmon River is the best thing that we have. There are no dams and it brings in our revenue for our businesses in town.

When there is a mine accident, how much time do you have in order to report this? The giant company ATK/Vista Outdoors, CCC along Snake River Avenue in Lewiston Idaho has 24 hours to report an accident. This gives the company 24 hours to let toxic chemicals leech into the river in Lewiston Idaho. Drive to this company and look at the giant tanks holding toxic chemicals in their manufacturing process close to the river. Ask the company how many times these tanks have leaked or an accident cause lose of life or river pollution?

I have rafted the Salmon Rivers from the head waters at Corn Creek to the confluence of the Salmon and the Snake. I cannot imagine this beautiful river to be destroyed.

I lived by the Snake River growing up. My family and I have some wonderful memories on the Snake river of swimming, boating, rafting. The river was wild with no dams and it was beautiful and clean. When I left home to go to college in 1972, that was the last time I saw the Snake River as wild and beautiful.

I came back and was shocked at the environmental impact of the dams and rec areas and parks with stale, stagnant waters, with e.coli warning signs on the beaches.

I would not trust a Canadian company to come here offering great things for jobs and community things after this experience. Stibnite already ruined our environment. Now a company wants to come in and change the language

to explain mining techniques and promise that it will not affect our river? How long will we have before Riggins is warned that there was an accident and don't go in the waters? Will we have 24 hours?

Why would we want to lose our most valuable tourism; the beautiful Salmon River? One accident will impact our city for generations.

Reprocess tailings? Clean up mercury, arsenic and antimony? With what?

Previous mining companies were unable to manage arsenic problems, resulting in a polluted landscape with taxpayers left on the hook for clean up costs, Stibnite is still a massive open pit cyanide vat leach mining project. Stibnite Gold is being touted as a benign restoration project but they continue to downplay the negatives in its mining plan that actually increase the long term risks of environmental degradation.

Earthworks released a study of 27 modern gold mining companies that responsible for 93% of gold production in the U.S.

The study found that every single one of these state of the art mining projects accidentally spilled cyanide, mine waste, diesel fuel or other hazardous materials. 74 percent of the mines polluted out water, resulting in fish kills and contaminated drinking water supplies.

Why would we trust a mining company and put our great river in such a risk. If we are out rafting the river and there was a spill, we would not even know about it until later.

Riggins, wake up to the risks of this project.