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First name: Diana

Last name: Withen

Organization:

Title:

Comments:

Ms. Linda Jackson

Payette National Forest Supervisor

500 N. Mission Street Building 2

McCall ID 83638-3805

RE: Stibnite Gold Project Draft EIS Public Comment

Dear Ms. Jackson,

In 1982 I met and married a McCall Smokejumper; we were lucky to live in McCall as part time residents and finally become full time residents. Our son and his family live here full time too. I have loved this area, the forest and streams for 40 years and hope that it will remain a safe place for our young grandson to grow up.

The propose Perpetua mine is very worrisome for many reasons. The economic burden of on the community of more children to school, roads that will be damaged from heavy trucks, the increase burden on all public services will not be covered by the taxes from the mine.

Although the economic issues are huge it is the environmental damage that has me most concerned. There will be thousands of trucks loaded with hazardous chemicals (sulfuric acid, diesel, explosives, sodium cyanide) driving our narrow mountain roads which run along our rivers. It should be assumed that there will be spills into our waterways, the only questions is how many spills, has the USFS calculated the cost of cleaning up these spills? They will cross sixty-nine waterways, how many waterways should we sacrifice for this mine? What will be the damage to the health of fish and to humans? This is all before we actually get to the mine itself. At the mine site we (the public since most of the mine is on our public land that you, the FS are obliged to protect) will be losing 120 acres of wetlands and 619 acres of riparian areas permanently. What will this loss do to the ability of the area to filter and hold the water in the future? How will that effect the water for the critical salmon runs? How will that affect the water quality for the humans downstream? How much should we expect our cancer rates to increase from the contaminants leached from the tailings and waste rock? How much will it cost the tax payer in 50 year or 100 years from now to monitor and treat the water? How are you testing for what will happen to the ground water and streamflow? Were the possible hydrothermal changes considered which can affect leaching and acid generation? The liners and dams will eventually fail releasing mercury, arsenic and other heavy metals in to our environment. Who will maintain the waste water ponds in 50, 100, 1000 years from now?

Is gold more important than clean water? Why should the people and life forms that live here pay the costs of ill health and death just to make rich people richer?

It will be the public that pay the costs for this mine, some with their health with their lives, all of us with our tax dollars to clean up the mess the company WILL leave. It is a well-known fact that mining companies never put up enough money in their bonds to repair the damage they cause. After they spend a little money "fixing" things they will go "bankrupt" and leave the mess for someone else to clean up (namely us the public). Then the company will pop up under a different name somewhere else and start destroying another area. The profits will be privatized and the losses will be socialized....it will be society that pays the costs of making the company's stockholders richer.

Please, please, please consider the application carefully and prioritize the humans and wildlife that live here.

Thank you for your consideration.

Diana Withen
304 Placid #2744
McCall, ID 83638

dwithen@gmail.com