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First name: Gregg

Last name: Servheen

Organization:

Title:

Comments: Comments on the proposed Stibnite Gold Project EIS #50516

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this important proposal and its potential impacts to a very important part of Idaho.

Overall, I am concerned that the project proposal will have a negative impact on the environment, recreational use, and surrounding communities. I am especially concerned of the many benefits to the environment being claimed as a result of the mining project. First because there is no assurance that the mining company or any derivation of the company in the future will be obligated to follow through on any and all restorative efforts the proposal intends to make. Based on history of mining projects in Idaho, no bond has been sufficient to incentivize mining companies to leave their project areas better than they left. Nor has a bond been sufficient to remedy the many environmental disasters that have been created by mining. As a mining company, the current business (the named has changed and will likely change again) that proposes the Stibnite project is responsible for making a profit from mining. It is not responsible and does not make a profit from restorative efforts or ensuring that the Stibnite project results in a net benefit to the South Fork Salmon River, its watershed, habitats, wildlife or public recreation. Therefore, I submit that no company be permitted or allowed to move ahead with the Stibnite Gold project unless the company itself was registered as a non-profit, A B Corporation or an equivalent. This would help ensure that the company itself is responsible for delivery of environmental, recreational and community benefits beyond those associated with mining itself.

In particular, I am also concerned about the following.

*The transportation needs and demands of the proposed project and their effects on recreation, community and public use of USFS roads and public roads to and from communities such as Boise, Eagle, Riggins, McCall, New Meadows and others. How will the increases in truck and mine transport traffic impact existing roads and public use of roads? Have these effects been assessed from a cumulative effects perspective? To what extent will the Idaho Department of Transportation be required to fund and execute projects to accommodate, improve or maintain the roads and highways potentially impacted by the Stibnite gold project? How will the South Fork Salmon and other waters be protected from the impacts and potential accidents resulting from mining traffic?

*I am particularly concerned about air quality in and around the proposed mine site. As proposed, it is especially concerning regarding the potential for arsenic levels in the air to degrade air quality. Have these impacts been analyzed? What publics are expected to be most impacted from high levels of arsenic in the air produced by the mine?

*The proposed benefits to fish and streams by the Stibnite project many manifest themselves after 100 years. This will be well past when the mine has completed its activities. How will it be insured that waters and fish are benefitted instead of impacted after 100 years? Who will be assigned to insure that and who will be accountable if the proposed benefits are not achieved? What are the incentives and disincentives for this?

*Finally, the proposed mine will be operating in an environment of climate change. The changes that may result from increasing climate change include severe drought, flooding, and wildfire; among others. Given that both action on climate change in Idaho, nationally, and globally has been slow and insufficient to reduce impacts and that climate effects will be increasing for the foreseeable future; I believe the current Stibnite analysis and proposal is lacking on its assessment of climate change on the project proposal. I recommend that a Supplemental Analysis on climate change be done. And that the Supplemental Analysis take into consideration the need for changes to Stibnite proposals and actions based on potential extreme weather and environmental changes brought about as a result of climate change .

Thank you for your consideration of these comments. Please keep me informed and involved in this important project.