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First name: Brenton

Last name: Kidder

Organization:

Title:

Comments: Dear Sir or Madam,

I am writing to share my concerns about the proposed Stibnite Gold Project. The proposed open pit cyanide leach mine is located east of Cascade and McCall, in the headwaters of the East Fork South Fork Salmon River. I am writing to encourage the government to NOT allow the Stibnite Gold Project to go forward (at least without the significant concerns I mention below to be addressed).

I live in Boise and have recreated in the Yellow Pine area for the last 40 years. I have fished, kayaked, camped, used ORVs and recreated along the South Fork of the Salmon River; it is and continues to be my go-to area for these activities. I have been pleased to see the endangered Bull Trout maintain and even recover over the years. The South Fork continues to be a blue ribbon fishery for cutthroat trout as well. This area is a legacy that should be protected; the damages from the extraction industry from the past are plain to see and continue to create problems. It is interesting (and ironic) that Perpetua Resources, the main proponent of this project, wants to emphasize that this is a 'restoration' project that will, upon its completion make the area like it was before previous mining operations made it such a damaged area.

While we have to take Perpetua Resources at their word (that they will in fact follow through with the expensive restoration part of the project after the mining operation has allowed them to get as much valuable resources from the open pit cyanide leach field) the consequences of continued damage resulting in the loss of Bull Trout habitat- and perhaps even the Bull Trout population itself- along with elevated arsenic levels in Air Quality and a continued degradation in transportation corridors (imagine adding each year up to 3000 mining trucks and other vehicles associated with the mine onto Highway 55-THE MAIN NORTH SOUTH CORRIDOR in Idaho) is just too high. Please reject this project.

Finally, I see that the US EPA had concerns in 2020 that have still not been addressed (which explains why the tribes have concerns about supporting the Stibnite Gold Project).

"In a previously unreported Nov. 18, 2020, letter to the U.S. Forest Service, the EPA's review of the draft environmental impact statement prepared by the Forest Service detailed a litany of concerns about the project, citing the potential for damage to water quality and "disproportionately high and adverse impacts to tribal populations." "Based on our review of the draft EIS, we continue to have significant concerns regarding potential impacts to water quality and aquatic resources."

I am asking that the US Forest Service reject the proposed Stibnite Gold Project. The potential damage to the:

FISHERIES (Bull Trout Habitat is endangered and this project will make it even more endangered)

ENVIRONMENT (Air Quality, arsenic levels that might or might not be monitored...with no real action available if they become dangerously high AFTER the project has been given approval) and

TRANSPORTATION DEGRADATION (Building a 15 mile road in an Inventoried Roadless Area, including a mile along the Frank Church Wilderness Area...not to mention the increased traffic on Highway 55, Lick Creek Road and others).

Finally, I would ask that the Forest Service look and address the recent problems brought about by climate change. This EIS was developed prior to the significant changes we have seen more recently that have impacted fires, water levels, washouts, droughts and more. The proposed Stibnite Gold Project will be impacted by these now and in the future. Please include these potential issues in your deliberations as you consider this project.

Thank you for considering my comments.