

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 1/8/2023 12:55:15 AM

First name: John

Last name: Lewinski

Organization:

Title:

Comments: This is just another project meant to steal whatever whatever heritage our local Native Americans have left, destroy the surrounding wildlife habitat, and leave a permanent water quality problem for our future generations in order to make rich a few investors. Please choose the No Action alternative.

There are many terrible consequences if this project goes forward. I will comment on the roadless characteristics that will be gone as well as the effects on big game species. I have lived in the area for 42 years and have hunted elk extensively in the Stibnite area. I have killed five elk within just a few miles of the project boundary, two within two miles.

The project proposes to build a temporary extension of the Burntlog road to provide access to the mining project. If this road is built I do not believe that it will ever be put back into a roadless condition. All one has to do is travel to the West side of the Payette Forest to see what happens when roads are put into an area only to be supposedly be put to bed later. The west side of the Forest is riddled with ATV trails that were supposedly closed to the public after a logging project was completed. The hauling road may have a few berms made and some brush or trees put over the roadbed but soon ATVs will wildcat around the berms or boulders and cut through the fallen snags or brush piles and soon the old road becomes an ATV trail and big game wildlife use plummets. Any good elk hunter will tell you that when an area becomes an ATV area used by the the general public most of the elk are gone. I have served on the Payette Forest Coalition for seven years since my retirement. I asked a Forest Service employee to find out how many citations were issued find out how many citations were issued for illegal motorized use on the Forest for a year period. The answer was nine. A total of nine citations were given on the entire Forest for a yearlong period by Forest Service personnel. I cannot believe that building a haul road, large enough to service mining trucks is ever going to be put back into a roadless condition. The history of such projects foretells disaster. And it is right next to the Frank Church Wilderness. The elk in the area will be replaced by an ATV dirt track long-term if this mining proposal goes forward.

I have seen both Mountain goats and Bighorn sheep within five miles of the project boundary. Bighorn sheep are at least mentioned in the DEIS but Mountain Goats are not mentioned at all. This is a premiere big game species in Idaho and it is not analyzed even though the population of these goats is in decline throughout the state. The number of goat hunting permits has gone down precipitously in our state over the last thirty years as the state Fish and Game Department has done their surveys and found less and less goats yet this huge project does not even think that it is important to analyze it's effect on that population when it is so close to where they live; an incredibly bad oversight.

This project will destroy fish habitat, big game habitat, and make a permanent water quality problem in the South Fork of Salmon river drainage. Just say NO. Choose the No Action Alternative