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First name: Meg

Last name: Fereday

Organization:

Title:

Comments: Dear Ms Linda Jackson,

I am opposed to going forward with the proposed Stibnite Gold Mine for both economic and environmental reasons.

As a native Idahoan, my family has 3 generations of connection to McCall, the lake and to the surrounding area. My grandfather owned property and businesses in McCall; my parents owned a second home there; my brother resides and runs a business in McCall. So I have many personal reasons to be concerned about the welfare and the future of Valley County. Since the time of my grandfather, the area has converted from extractive industry to tourism.

I am particularly concerned about the environmental impacts that an open pit mine would have on the East South Fork of the Salmon River. According to a review of 27 modern gold mining operations in the US by Earthworks (Missoula, MT), 100 % of these mines experienced at least one pipeline spill, or other accidental release of cyanide, diesel, tailings, or ore concentrate. The proposed Stibnite mine will inevitably have a Tailings Storage Facility (TSF) failure, which will ruin a national treasure, a world class river. The East South Fork Salmon River would never be the same after such a spill or spills.

I am also concerned that the increased traffic of large vehicles carrying explosives, chemicals, fuel and other substances could wind up in the rivers, not only in the East South Fork, but also the North Fork of the Payette while en route to the mine. The spill risk is very great. It is a "sooner or later" proposition.

Valley County is enjoying economic success based on the amenities that come from its surrounding natural beauty. Much of this land is National Forest land. I am sure you are well aware of the economic spin-offs that they provide. This mine is a threat to the economy of Valley County because it has the potential to inflict a "boom and bust" effect that could leave the area damaged, polluted, and unable to handle the influx of traffic, mine workers, etc. Tourism and recreation have been and continue to be the drivers of a vibrant economy in Valley County. The mine doesn't belong there.

Thank you for your time.

Very truly yours,

Meg Fereday  
1320 E Hays Way  
Boise, ID 83712