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First name: Jean

Last name: Naples

Organization:

Title:

Comments: Dear Forest Supervisor,

I am writing as a physician and public health/environmental protection advocate who strongly supports full protection for the Salmon River from the destructive operation of a Stibnite cyanide leaching gold mine.

I extend my appreciation and thank you for this opportunity to comment on the Supplementary Draft Environmental Impact Statement (SDEIS) for the Stibnite Gold Project, proposed at the headwaters of the Salmon River watershed. The Salmon River watershed is one of the most cherished and economically important rivers in the region.

At this time, I am aware that a mining company wants to dig a massive and destructive cyanide leaching gold mine on public lands at the headwaters of the Salmon River. I am very concerned and oppose any operation of this destructive mine at the headwaters of the Salmon River, which is one of the most cherished and economically important rivers in the west.

Despite the fact that the company is promoting this mine as a 'restoration project' because it plans to clean up some old mine waste along the way, the reality is that the proposed Stibnite mine is a massive industrial mining operation that will result in lasting environmental damage to water, fish and wildlife, and conflict with treaty rights held by the Nez Perce Tribe.

Please understand that this proposed mine is a massive industrial mining operation that will result in lasting and unacceptable impacts to public and tribal resources. The proposed mine plan will double the size of land disturbance, from 1,593 to 3,265 acres, including the excavation of three open pits, and the generation of 280 million tons of waste rock and up to 120 million tons of tailings which is mine waste that will remain on the landscape forever.

I am very disturbed and alerting you to the fact that the draft supplemental environmental impact statement (SDEIS) predicts that construction of this massive cyanide-leach gold mine, under both road alternatives, will cause significant and permanent harm to tribal rights and interests, including preventing access to traditional lands, harming traditional fishing and hunting rights, impacting endangered salmon and concerns that it would harm the tribe's salmon restoration efforts.

At this time, I thank you for your consideration of my letter and my request. I strongly urge the Forest Service, as a family physician and public health/environmental protection advocate, to please completely ensure full protection for the Salmon River watershed and its endangered wildlife and Indigenous tribal groups and fully reject the proposed Stibnite mine plan. The destructive effects from the operation of this mine directly threatens the ability for the Salmon River wildlife to survive and the lifestyles of the Indigenous tribes who depend upon the ability to access the aquatic wildlife in this river for their livelihoods and their survival.

Sincerely,

Jean Marie Naples, MD-Ph.D.