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First name: Sam
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Organization:
Title:
Comments: I'm concerned that the Stibnite Gold Mine will leave a permanent scar on the landscape that reclamation efforts cannot fix. It's more than just the degradation to scenic quality. I drink out of the surface waters that this mine will contaminate. I photograph the wildlife this mine will displace. I breathe the air this mine will pollute. I hike the public lands this mine will close access to. I gaze at the stars this mine will obscure with light pollution.

I grew up exploring the mountains and river valleys around the mine's site. I've marveled at the damage caused by past generations, and I've felt extremely grateful watching the mine site slowly be reclaimed. (Eventhough the hidden pollutants are everpresent). So, I was incredibly disheartened to learn that the Forest Service would even consider allowing this mine to be reopened, let alone expanded.

This mine will provide what? Corporate gains, tax dollars to Valley County, and some jobs in the Yellowpine? All of these are fleeting, but the damage will last a thousand generations. I implore you to consider those future generations, and how THEY will experience this landscape. Do you want them to have the same thoughts I do, "why were past generations so short-sighted?"

If nothing else, I want the Forest Service to ENSURE the Stibnite project doesn't spoil the region's resources. Can that assurance be made? The tailings pond won't rupture, the salmonids won't die-off, the wildlife won't be disrupted, the whitebark pine won't be threatened, the Wilderness quality won't be degraded. I haven't seen ANY evidence that suggests the Forest Service can/will ensure that, so I don't understand how this EIS has made it so far.

I have the utmost respect for the Forest Service , so I have faith that you will come to the right decision. Don't dissapoint me.