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Comments: Dear Forest Supervisor Jackson,

Thank you for this opportunity to comment on the Supplemental Draft Environmental Impact Statement (SDEIS) for the Stibnite Gold Project (SGP), proposed at the headwaters of the South Fork Salmon River watershed. As proposed, this project represents unacceptable risks to aquatic ecosystems, drinking water, and all forms of recreation within the area. Most importantly, this proposed project is another form of disregarding treaty reserved rights and interests of the Indigenous peoples of the area.

My partner and I moved to Idaho from Virginia a few years ago because of the untouched wilderness offered in this incredible state. The forests, rivers, lakes, and mountains are what drew us here, and experiencing them over the years has solidified our understanding of their sacredness. Our friends, professors, and colleagues who grew up in Idaho are so proud to call this state home because of the connections we all feel to the land and water.

As avid flyfishing, hunting, and hiking folks, we were willing to leave our homes and family behind to enjoy the beauty of this state and the ecosystems that thrive here. Idahoans take pride in protecting public land because we all agree that this nature is worth protecting. This project will compromise hundreds of acres of high-functioning wetlands, which will require Idahoans to pay millions of dollars for future restoration projects to clean up the mess when SGP abandons the site.

In addition to my emotional attachment to these natural places and desire to advocate for them, this proposed project is financially irresponsible. This proposed project is a slap in the face to the people, tribes, and organizations who have spent countless hours and billions of dollars on salmon recovery.

The first thing I noticed when we moved here is how political affiliations rarely played a role when discussing the protection of natural resources. Coming from the east coast, it is rare to find this common ground. However, in Idaho, democrats and republicans alike are often on the same side fighting for healthy fish populations and clean water.

In addition to the known impacts and risks associated with mining, climate change is exacerbating the unknown implications as weather patterns become more severe and less predictable. I am aware that non-renewable resources are necessary for our society. However, these mining projects always overpromise and destroy the same communities in which the promises are made. While the USA is known for conducting resource extraction in a much safer, more regulated fashion compared to other countries, this does not exempt this proposed mine (or any) from contaminating invaluable natural resources.

The Pacific Northwest is at a turning point with our water resources, and this mining project is a way of guaranteeing another loss of healthy wetlands for temporary profit (which Idaho constituents will never benefit from).

Recreation, in any form, within the general area of the mine will be negatively impacted. The analysis of impacts on recreation is arbitrarily limited to a 5-mile radius from major mine features and does not include any discussion of traffic displaced to the South Salmon Road and Lick Creek Road that will logically result from this project.

Finally, the SGP will negatively impact the treaty-reserved rights of the Nez Perce and other Indigenous peoples of Idaho. The SDEIS clearly states that "Adverse impacts to tribal rights and interests under either alternative,

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".

For these reasons, I emphatically urge the Forest Service to protect the Salmon River watershed and reject the proposed Stibnite mine plan.