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Organization:

Title:

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.

I have been a resident of McCall for 43 years, and have experienced a vibrant economy develop due to the high quality of the surrounding natural environment, the mountains, lakes, rivers, and access to public lands. My experience is substantiated in the report prepared by Power Consulting (Missoula MT), entitled An Evaluation of the Potential Socio-Economic Impacts of the Proposed Stibnite Mine on Valley County, Idaho (DEC 2022).

I have many concerns regarding the Stibnite Gold Project, my main concern being that SDEIS does not adequately address the impacts of mining activities on McCall, its residents, economy and environs.

The Access & Transportation Specialist Report states that one-third of all mine-related traffic will come through McCall, yet the SDEIS does not analyze the risks associated with the transport of hazardous chemicals in close proximity to Big Payette Lake, North Fork Payette River, and populated areas of McCall. Any spills involving hazardous materials could severely affect the environment and economic health of the area, yet the issue is not addressed. The SDEIS does not include any discussion of traffic displaced to the South Fork Salmon River Road and Lick Creek Road that will logically result from mining activity and have consequences to the neighborhoods that such increased traffic will pass through.

The SDEIS also does not sufficiently analyze the affects of increases in population and traffic on the roads, schools, hospitals, police, EMS fire, and other services. If the SGP will contribute about \$300,000 annually to property tax revenues when the mine is operational, has it been shown to be sufficient to offset such increased costs to local taxpayers? What about the potential loss of recreation opportunities and the impacts on our local economy due to mining activities and closure of areas previously accessible for public use?

The SDEIS has insufficiently addressed or analyzed the many impacts of this project on the affected communities. For these reasons, I urge the Forest Service to protect our communities and choose the No-Action Alternative.