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Comments: To Linda Jackson, Payette Forest Supervisor

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the proposed gold mine. While I am aware this is national forest and belongs to all the United States citizen population, It's a particularly important place to me as I live in mccall and recreate in Payette National Forest most of my free time.

In my early 20's I was hooked by exploring wilderness and wild places. Backpacking, hiking, rock climbing where regular hobbies of mine but none so exciting as whitewater kayaking. East Fork of the South Fork of the Salmon river is an amazing place to experience wild country and amazing rapids. From the first time I visited Idaho I was sent there by some friends and I was hooked by the place. It's wild nature and amazing exploration opportunity immediately hooked me and I spent the next decade coming back multiple times a year. I believe it was the exploration around yellow pine that ultimately helped me choose Idaho as a primary residence giving up my nomadic life style. I chose valley county as a place of residence to pursue my nursing career and raise my daughter. I love this community and the amazing access to wild places living here provides. I think its not a stretch to say in someways my identity is linked to the forest and land around Yellow Pine. It would sadden me greatly to see an ill prepared gold mine plan be allowed to move forward in such a precious place.

The SDEIS is vague and unclear in severe ways all of which appear to affect the forest plan in a way that is completely inconsistent with its original intent.

The SDEIS drastically understates and generally fails to state the fragility of the Burnt Log Route to access the mine. From avalanches to rock fall and land slides, there is lots of periods throughout the year when the burnt log route will be impassible. During that time do they plan to use the Johnson Creek road to access the mine? Anytime they want to get into the mine when the brunt log way is closed can they use the Johnson creek way? What happens if they make the Burnt log route and find that its riddled with closers from rock fall to avalanche and decide to use the Johnson creek route more frequently than they originally planned without putting in the hazard mitigation strategies necessary to actually reduce risks to the Boise and Payette National Forests?

It would seem to me that if the Burnt log route is allowed to go forward it really allows Purpetua to have 2 roads to access the mine. The public should be better informed of how frequently they will be clogging up the Johnson creek route with hazardous materials and mine traffic using the Johnson creek route. Which appears to be a lot more frequently than they have estimates in there SDEIS.

The Burnt Log route would also degrade the Frank Church wilderness with all of the noise pollution and road clearing and avalanche mitigation work necessary to construct and maintain the road. From semi truck travel, road construction, regular helicopter flights to avalanche mitigation explosions. All of these degrade not only Payette and Boise National Forest but also the near by Frank Church Wilderness area.

There is also a incorrectly labeled map in the SDEIS. The map in the executive summary (Figure ES-1) labels the national forest to the east of the Burnt Log route as "Salmon-Challis National Forest" when in fact it is the Frank Church wilderness area. This misleads the reader into thinking the Brunt Log route is further from the wilderness boundary than it actually is. Reducing the publics concern when it should be raising it.

Working under the assumption that the SGP plows the Johnson creek route either year round for frequently throughout the winter which would push the over snow vehicle route to yellow pine through the cabin creek road. Which is a very steep canyon, is it safe to encourage the pubic to go through that route? Will it cost valley county

tax payers more money to maintain that route? How will the route affect wild life?

I don't think I can over state the importance of protecting wild places like the area around the proposed mine. There are few places with wild country comparable to this proposed mine area in the lower 48. Payette National Forest should not allow a private gold mining company to engage in activities that are totally inconsistent with its forest plan and likely forever change this place amazing place. I hope you chose the No-action alternative for this proposal.

Sam Wells