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Comments: To: Payette Forest Supervisor

Stibnite Gold Project EIS #50516

SDEIS

I am writing today to publicly state my continued strong opposition to the proposed Stibnite Gold Project, and adamantly advocate for the Forest Service to choose the No-Action Alternative. I have extensive concerns over a broad scope, however for this comment I will focus on negative generational impacts this proposed project will have on the local indigenous peoples whose treaty rights encompass the mine site, specifically the 1855 treaty with the Nez Perce Tribe. It is a terrible irony that it was mining, primarily for gold, which attracted a wave of settlers, encouraged by the United States government, into the just negotiated sovereign tribal boundary lines established in the 1855 treaty with the Nez Perce. (Aftermath of the 1855 Treaty, National Park Service www.nps.gov/nepe/learn/historyculture/aftermath-of-1855-treaty.htm)

The Nez Perce Tribe opposes the proposed Stibnite Mine Project. This is another opportunity to listen to generational wisdom and acknowledge the tribe's sovereign rights. Scientists have just confirmed the oldest artifacts of human occupation in North America at Coopers Ferry near the confluence of the Salmon and Snake rivers. This recent archaeological discovery puts descendants of the Nez Perce here in this region over 16,000 years ago, all within the Nez Perce traditional lands and boundaries of the 1855 Treaty.

I commend the Forest Service for continuing to allow for a process anchored in public input and transparency. I recognize the immense scope and complexity of the decision to be made. I encourage and support the Payette Supervisors massive opportunity to listen to the Nez Perce tribe's biologists, cultural leaders, and council members in choosing the NO-ACTION ALTERNATIVE.