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Comments: Forest Supervisor Jackson,

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement for the Stibnite Gold Project proposed at the headwaters of the South Fork Salmon River. This mine risks Chinook salmon and bull trout populations and will have terrible impacts on recreation in this area.

It seems funny that the US government has gone to such great lengths to protect and bring back the Chinook and bull trout populations just to allow a mine that will endanger all the hard work they have already complete. It is going to impact water quality and who knows how much contamination the mine will put into the surrounding wetlands and river. I think these issues should be weighed heavily when considering this mine.

The mine will transport hazardous materials to the site through the communities of Valley County, but there are no risk analyses on local communities if a hazardous spill were to occur and the potential exposure of a hazardous spill is much larger than the Environmental impact statement portrays.

The mine raises numerous concerns for rivers protected under the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act. The project itself is located at the headwaters of the suitable South Salmon River, which feeds directly into the designated Main Salmon River. However, the scope of analysis does not include any potential impacts that extend downstream of the site boundary. Additionally, Johnson Creek and Burntlog Creek, both eligible under the WSRA, will both face degradation and risk of toxic spills if this project moves forward.

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. I think most of us can agree that recreation, guiding, and outfitting produce many more jobs and bring in a lot more money to the state of Idaho than this gold mine will.

Finally, the mine will negatively impact the treaty-reserved rights of the Nez Perce and other tribes 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 all these reasons, I urge the Forest Service to protect the Salmon River watershed and reject the proposed Stibnite mine plan.