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First name: Camille

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Organization:

Title:

Comments: To: The Forrest Service

Regarding: Stibnite Gold Project EIS #50516

"The day that Cecil Andrus died, I was in the White Clouds-beneath Castle Peak and surrounded by the legacy of the man who literally saved the place from becoming an open-pit mine (molybdenum)... 'It's the mountain that made a governor,' Andrus would often say. He was the first western governor elected on an environmental issue, stopping a proposed mine that would have erased the mountain, the valley, and the heart of the White Clouds. Because he became governor, he became Interior secretary, and that led to protecting over 100 million acres of Alaska. And he did so much more.... You can hear the aspens in the breeze and splashing as salmon dance above redds (salmon spawning beds) in the East Fork of the Salmon River where they spawn and die... I can sense he's there, in all of it." Written by Rick Johnson, Idaho Conservation League 8/29/2017

The era of Cecil Andrus was the arguably some of Idaho's greatest years, as he fought for protected wilderness, both from within Idaho as our Governor and then from Washington, D.C., as U.S. Secretary of the Interior. He was key in securing support by the U.S. Congress for Federal designation of the Sawtooth Wilderness Area in Idaho, as well as fighting the open-pit Molybdenum mine of the White Clouds. Andrus also fought hard against nuclear waste dumping on Idaho soil. Many Idahoans, from both sides of the isle, had great admiration and respect for the man Cecil Andrus was, but also for the style and drive he had to protect the natural lands and the beauty they provide. He was a man of great conviction, intelligence, and salt-of-the-earth manner. I once called the governor's office at the Idaho capital building only to have the governor himself answer the phone saying, "This is Cece. How can I help you." It shows his determination to serve the state of Idaho without showy pride or arrogance, rather with humility and true care for the people and land of Idaho.

It is with this memory, of a time long gone, that I write my concerns about the Stibnite pit-mining. Governor Andrus would be appalled, as he was before, at the possible destruction this project would have on Idaho land, rivers, indigenous people, fishermen, salmon, and on and on. It is hard to believe that anyone would entertain the idea of a pit-mine that would destroy the rivers and the salmon existence that have made Idaho such a great place to enjoy the outdoors. I know that Cecil Andrus would be so very disappointed in this proposed plan after all the work he did in his lifetime to protect the natural beauty of the Idaho he loved and dedicated so much to.

We as an Idahoan family, going back generations, ask that you respect the land and what it offers naturally by defeating this proposed pit-mine. Keep Idaho green and the salmon healthy. It is not ours to destroy or damage, it belongs to the children of the future. They deserve to enjoy the natural beauty of the protected land of Idaho.

Sincerely,

Camille Oliver Tillinghast