Data Submitted (UTC 11): 1/11/2023 5:05:09 AM
First name: Rickey
Last name: Hyman
Organization:
Title:
Comments: Dear Forest Supervisor Jackson,

This project proposes to threaten my family's way of life, the place we have gone to in search of beauty, solitude, and recreation. It threatens the hope I have for my daughter to someday enjoy the same currents along the South Fork Salmon as we do, the same banks along Johnson Creek as we do, the same marsh where we like to camp, just above the old stibnite mine, the same fresh air, and the same fresh water.

As a registered nurse and someone who serves our local population, I understand through research, education, and first-hand experience, how intrinsic the health of the ecosystem is to the health of humankind. My greatest concern regarding the proposed SGP is the great potential to exacerbate already present health disparities in local communities, as well as communities well outside the reach of the inadequate current studies.

Current first responders and healthcare organizations are not equipped to accommodate and provide care for the type of accidents that can occur at such a site as SGP. Furthermore, the largely talked about "boom" this project would have with regards to the influx of workers and the size of the proposed project will put a massive strain on already strained & overworked healthcare providers and systems in the Western Central Mountains.

Difficult fire seasons in the west have already threatened air quality in the Western Central Mountains. The SGP presents premature claims of their ability to control air pollution from the site, claims that neither SGP nor the Forest Service can prove, and rely only on poor assumptions. Exacerbations for individuals with chronic respiratory illnesses have been directly linked to poor air quality. With increasingly difficult fire seasons in the western united states, thus, worsening air quality, in conjunction with the current pandemic, the strain on our healthcare system is unprecedented. I ask the Forest Service to require conditions for the SGP that mitigate the project's impact on air quality.

As someone who travels Johnson Creek Road often, and ventures into yellow pine and surrounding areas at all times of the year, I understand from first-hand experience that these roads cannot handle the stress that such an operation would place on them. I would be hesitant to drive these roads anymore, knowing the increased traffic and type of traffic, especially with my child in the vehicle. Furthermore, the likelihood of traffic-related accidents increases significantly with such a proposal as SGP, and again, strains the healthcare system.

In short, the healthcare system, both at large and locally, cannot handle the additional strain that the negative environmental impacts, and potential for physical injury, will likely cause to employees of SGP, citizens, recreators, and surrounding communities. I ask that the Forest Service take into consideration the inadequate studies regarding strain on the healthcare system (especially during an ongoing pandemic), and conduct further studies which fully examine the direct relationship between health disparities and SGP. Please reject the proposed stibnite mine plan to help protect the health of the citizens of the western central mountains (and the sanity of healthcare workers).