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As stated in my 2020 comment letter (#9578)

I am concerned about the mercury, methyl mercury and arsenic increased in surface water in the East Fork South Fork Salmon River and waters downstream of the mining site. The FIS needs to address in detail how contaminants will be treated in perpetuity to avoid downstream effects.

I am concerned about the impact that the mine will have on the local economy. It will put significant pressure on our already difficult housing market, schools, water and sewer services, telecommunications and internet infrastructure. Tax payments will almost entirely go to federal or state government leaving valley county taxpayers to pay for the majority of the impacts.

In response to this apparently general treatment of my comments, the EIS at appendix B-738 said "No further response required. General in nature or position statement. It is acknowledged and understood that concerns regarding potential long term environmental impacts, ecological integrity, and the well being of the affected communities are valid and important tot consider. During the decision making process the forest service will seek to identify the best possible balance between environmental protection, community needs a and sustainable forest management."

This is inadequate because the USFS illegally deferred much of its review of water protection duties under the Organic Act and other laws and regulations to the Army Corps of Engineers. yet the USFS is poised to issue a final ROD and approve the project without this analysis, in violation of the Clean Water Act and related requirements.

The remedy for this violation is for the Forest Service to withdraw the FEIS and DROD and not issue any decision or take any action based on the inadequate FEIS.

Respectfully submitted,

Merry Armstrong