Data Submitted (UTC 11): 10/17/2024 4:55:03 PM
First name: Ted
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Organization:
Title:
Comments: To Matt Davis, Forest Supervisor, Payette National Forest

I have lived in McCall for the past 21 years, working as a teacher of Economics at McCall-Donnelly High School. I understand our local economy and the many forces that influence it and keep it healthy or threaten it.

I would like to address the insufficient response I received from your agency about the Stibnite Gold Project. In my 2023 letter (#17165), I expressed the grave concerns I have about the effects that a gold mine at Stibnite could have on the fabric of our community. Your agency's response was inadequate. It did not address the deleterious effects that such a mine would have on our communities in Valley County.

Boom and bust economic cycles wreak havoc on small communities. They can take healthy economies, like that of McCall and its environs, based on government services (like the USFS and schools), health care, home building, tourism/recreation, etc, and give them a temporary influx of capital that is then removed a decade later, leaving the community with boarded-up businesses and schools that are too large to accommodate their new, lower population. It brings transient workers and their families to the community who have little connection to the community and little reason to add to our wonderful community. They know that they will not be here long. It is important that we do not trade our sustainable community for a short-term influx of cash.

Additionally, we face a severe shortage of housing (especially affordable) in Valley County. The opening of a mine and an influx of new workers in our community would add serious pressure to this already difficult situation. This would send prices higher as even more buyers compete for the already low supply of housing suitable for families.

It is important to all of us, as you a McCall area resident knows, to maintain a healthy community and economy. The FEIS does not sufficiently address the concern that many of us here have about the terrible effects that this mine would have on our community (the environmental effects go without saying - anyone can see that a mine at the headwaters of the Salmon River drainage would be destructive to our environment). I would like to know how you will address these concerns and the negative effects that this mine would have on our community and economy in the LONG-TERM.

Thank you.