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First name: Ronnie
Last name: Julian
Organization:
Title:
Comments: I have provided comments on this project at each juncture in the planning exercise. This is a very important project and I expect it will clear all hurdles eventually and reach implementation. I support that conclusion, but the analysis used to support that event must be spot-on given the extremely high level of public interest displayed to date. I do object to the analysis done to date meeting the spot-on test.

The initial decision to use a single Forest/line officer lead, while being efficient has resulted in inadequate involvement of line officer and resource professionals stationed on the Boise National Forest. These are managers who know the land, it's values and the publics best. The decision to exclude them from the initial planning has led to a fundamental flaw in the final analysis.

Project design features, mitigation measures and most of all the range of alternatives exhibit that lack of involvement of employees who are best positioned to do the homework so desperately needed in this project. Quite simply, the range of alternatives is too narrow given the possibilities. The National Environmental Policy Act speaks of a robust analysis of a broad range of alternatives. This analysis does not achieve that criteria. The implementation date will be dramatically delayed unless this flaw is overcome.

This effort is like riding a bronc at the Fourth of July rodeo. It has had to endure a lot of change along the way-2 contracting planning organizations, 3 Forest Supervisors, 3 CEO's, and the arrival of a second mining proposal (Stallion) in the front yard of the Stibnite Project. Certainly, the effects of all that change and the magnitude of that change could surely be some of the reason. But, given the level and credentials of some of the objectors, I'd venture to guess you are only 3 seconds in on that 8 seconds bronc ride. History has demonstrated that planning excellence is the cheapest alternative in the South Fork of the Salmon Rver.

I retired in 2005 and quickly realized I was suddenly without administrative capabilities. Hence I do not have extensive files to submit. I will rely on my comment letters that are in the administrative record. Thank you.