Data Submitted (UTC 11): 10/21/2024 6:00:00 AM
First name: Laura
Last name: Bechdel
Organization:
Title:
Comments: From:

Laura Bechdel

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Re:

Stibnite Gold FEIS

Forest Supervisor Matt Davis, Payette NF

Lodging an Objection to the Stibnite Gold Final EIS (due before October 21, 2024, 11:59:59 MST)

I am writing in opposition to the proposed Stibnite Gold Project (Perpetua Resources). Below are my objections to the proposed Record of Decision and Final EIS. I ask you to reject both alternatives and choose the NO Action alternative. I further ask you to find the FEIS and ROD invalid for not complying with the Forest Service's duty to consider and respond to all public comments.

As stated in my Comment Letter #3933, 10/21/2020, the Proposed Stibnite Gold Project will irrevocably and irreversibly harm special status fish and will result in a dramatic, direct loss of habitat. Further, the proposed project will result in changes in migratory patterns of fish, being required to pass through a fish tunnel. The various storage facilities (ie Tailings Storage Facility and Development Rock Storage Facility), will occur in and near Meadow Creek and Fiddle Creek, which would negatively impact critical areas that support native fishes threatened under the Endangered Species Act. These creeks serve as headwaters to support fish locally, as well as stream ecosystems and water quality downstream.

In response to my comment, the FEIS at Appendix B-733 responds: "No further response required. General in nature or position statement. The EIS thoroughly assesses and analyzes the potential impacts on all applicable resources from the action alternatives and the No Action Alternative. During the decision-making process, the Forest Service will strive to identify the most effective and responsible course of action for the Payette and Boise National Forests and the communities it supports."

The Forest Service FEIS did not adequately respond to my comment. The FEIS on pg. 1-32 asserts: "changes from the SDEIS to the Final EIS,", however, nothing has changed from the SDEIS to the FEIS regarding my comment, therefore, my comments are still valid.

I urge the Forest Service to withdraw the FEIS and DROD, and not issue any decision or take any action based on the inadequate FEIS. The Forest Service must not take any action until a revised FEIS and revised DROD demonstrate full compliance with each and every law, regulation, policy, Treaty, and requirement noted. The Regional Forester must withdraw the FEIS and DROD with instructions to the Payette National Forest to correct all errors noted before approving or taking any actions.

Signed,

Laura Bechdel