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Organization:

Title:

Comments: Good afternoon. Please Take this as my formal objection to the Draft Decision on Stibnite Gold Project EIS #50516. I can in no way articulate the scientific based concerns that I have as well as those that have already gone through the formal objection process. What I can share with you is that I worked and lived on the South Fork of The Salmon River for 16 years while working for the Forest Service .My duty station was at the Krassel Guard Station on the South Fork proper. I would move out to the station in April and generally leave in October. At that time, my primary job was in Fire, however, I assisted in Fisheries, Minerals, Wildlife, Engineering and Recreation on many projects. I have close personal friends who grew up, went to school and worked at Stibnite from the pre WW2 era all the way through the reclamation projects of the early 1990's. None of them support the project given what they have seen in their lives out on the South Fork and East Fork of the South Fork Salmon River. It is an incredibly fragile ecosystem as proven by past mining damage as well as the roaded and the experimental helicopter timber harvest practices through the early 1980's. In addition to my close ties and on the ground experience in the South Fork and East Fork of The South Fork, I have had significant interaction with Nez Perce as well as Shoshone Bannock Tribal members and Elders during my time on the ground out there. They are adamantly opposed to projects such as this and are feeling the sting of yet another "betrayal" by the Federal Government on their traditional Inads .

I have personally worked at the actual Stibnite location as well as many locations on the South Fork performing restoration work in the watershed including mine rehabilitation work on the site ,siltation mitigation work, fisheries management, fire suppression and wildlife management projects. While I cannot articulate the hard science, I can say without hesitation that the proposed project will prove to be deleterious to the health and wellbeing of the watershed. I can distinctly recall working out there in the early 1990's when the South Fork Road was paved to "mitigate siltation and improve spawning habitat". Within the first two years, multiple mining and fuel delivery vehicles went off of the road, siltation increased despite the USFS using sediment dreads to "mitigate" the increased siltation. In short, please take this as a firm objection to the project and as a direct appeal to reject both alternatives, choose the No-Action alternative, or develop a new alternative. I base this objection based upon my 34 years of living, working, recreating and paying attention to the health and well being of the South Fork of the Salmon River. I appreciate the work the USFS does and hope that this objection is given due consideration.

Respectfully,

Willy Acton

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