

Attn: Smoky Canyon Mine Comments  
Sherri Stumbo  
USDA Forest Service  
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RE: Smoky Canyon Mine cleanup

Dear Forest Service,

Thank you for the opportunity to submit comments on the proposed Smoky Canyon Mine cleanup. The Idaho Conservation League has been involved in Smoky Canyon mining permitting and cleanup issues for many years.

We understand that permitted mining operations at the Smoky Canyo site led to contamination of soils, surface water, vegetation, sediment, and groundwater with selenium and other contaminants of potential concern, including cadmium, aluminum, arsenic, iron, and maganese..

We support moving forward with the preferred alternative. However, we are concerned that selenium concentrations in Sage Creek have increased significantly from 2021 to 2022. The Forest Service should establish enforceable deadlines, closely review the monitoring results and use adaptive management to better meet the Remedial Action Objectives as soon and as efficiently as possible.

Sincerely,



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