

Date submitted (UTC-11): 11/8/2018 12:00:00 AM

First name: Patrick

Last name: Siglin

Organization: New World Cobalt

Title: Exploration Manager, North America

Official Representative/Member Indicator:

Address1:

Address2:

City:

State:

Province/Region:

Zip/Postal Code:

Country: United States

Email: psiglin@newworldcobalt.com

Phone:

Comments:

As an employee of a minerals exploration company, our primary concern regarding the evaluation of the Salmon-Challis National Forest for additional Wilderness areas is the withdrawal of mineral entry. If we cannot stake mineral claims then potentially prospective areas become off limits to our work. An area from roughly Long Tom lookout to the confluence of Iron Creek and the Salmon River is regarded by our industry as the Idaho Cobalt Belt. Cobalt is an important strategic metal with multiple applications but its primary use at present is in lithium batteries (particularly those batteries used in electric vehicle). Beyond that, the Salmon-Challis is rich with various mineral deposits from rare earth elements, gold, copper, and thorium (to name a few). We rely on public lands to be available for mineral entry and strive to be stewards of those properties so that we can overcome the decades old stigma of mineral exploration and mining as having a negative impact on the environment.

On a personal level, I oppose additional wilderness areas being added to the Salmon-Challis National forest due to the difficulty in managing them as compared to non-wilderness (including costs and my tax dollars). While I value wildlife, scenic aesthetics, being distal to mechanized equipment, and the romantic feel of a truly wild area, I am not convinced that a wilderness designation is required to preserve those qualities.

Thank you for your time,

Sincerely,

Patrick Siglin

Exploration Manager, North America