I am urging the Forest Service to deny the permit for Perpetua Resource’s Stibnite Gold Project and require Perpetua to finish cleaning up the mine site.

It is my understand that the Stibnite Gold Project doubles the old mine’s existing footprint, would use up to a fifth of the water in part of the East Fork of the South Fork, and includes about 1,800 acres of mine pits, 15 miles of new roads plus dozens of miles of currently remote USFC roads, a 400-foot- tall tailings dam for 100 million tons of materials, and other infrastructure within the nearly 30,000-acre project area. If approved, this project puts not only the Frank Church-River of No Return Wilderness at risk, but also the East Fork of the South Fork of the Salmon River and endangered species such as salmon, steelhead, and bull trout. Additional points include:

·         Under the preferred alternative, road construction and mining operations would cause serious impacts to the River of No Return Wilderness, including noise audible from a nearly 2-mile radius, wildlife disturbance and displacement, increased access to and activity in what are now quiet and lightly-visited places in the Wilderness, and sediment pollution in streams within the Wilderness.

·         The wilderness evaluation erroneously downplays these impacts.

·         The new proposed road would sit 100 feet from the wilderness boundary or could even enter the Wilderness as the most logical location for the road seems to be an existing pack trail that dips into the Wilderness.

·         The last thing this area needs is more toxic mining and associated impacts.

Again, I urge the Forest Service to do the right thing and act as a steward for a precious, rare, and fragile part of the lower 48. Please deny the permit for Perpetua Resource’s Stibnite Gold Project and require Perpetua to finish cleaning up the mine site. It’s worth noting that the Nez Perce Tribe has been actively working to clean up the South Fork of the Salmon. By allowing this permit, millions of dollars spend by the Nez Perce Tribe and the federal government to clean up the legacy of past mining impacts will be wasted.