

1/8/2023

United States Forest Service,

As a long time resident (over 20 years) of Valley County, Idaho and a frequent user of the recreational resources in the backcountry east of our hometown of McCall, I have serious concerns regarding Perpetual Resources' intended mining operations in the Stibnite area adjacent the East Fork of the South Fork of the Salmon River. I suggest that in order to provide adequate time for public comment on a project of this magnitude and environmental consequence, a minimum of a 45 day extension be granted to allow further study, analysis of the Supplemental Draft Environmental Impact Statement (SDEIS) and input from those likely to be personally affected.

Among my concerns are the following:

1. Inadequate assessment of the long term impact to critical environmental habitat for ESA listed Chinook, Steelhead, Bull Trout and West Slope Cutthroat Trout. Serious questions remain unanswered about the increase in stream water temperatures and the viability of mile long, untested fish tunnel proposed for the East Fork of the South Fork in the mining area.
2. Absence of a comprehensive study of air quality issues associated with the mining operation. How will recreational users of the public land near the mine be protected from airborne toxic contaminants?
3. Inadequate assessment of the danger to the users of public roadways such as Hwy 55 and Hwy 95 and the adjacent, sensitive environment caused by a substantial increase in heavy truck traffic carrying toxic reagents and waste materials.
4. The consequences of long term storage of waste rock and toxic mine tailings in the natural stream drainages in the area.

By unnecessarily limiting public input and comment to a short time period it appears that the Forest Service is not living up to it's responsibility for "Caring for the Land and Serving People".

Sincerely,

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