

January 9, 2023

Attention United States Forest Service,

I am writing to urge the USFS to extend the comment period for Perpetua Resources' intended mining operation in the Stibnite area adjacent the East Fork of the South Fork of the Salmon River. A minimum of a 45 day extension would provide those with serious concerns about the project a more reasonable amount of time to, post holiday season, address shortcomings of the Supplemental Draft Environmental Impact Statement (SDEIS). As a resident of Valley county, Idaho for over 20 years and a frequent user of the public land near the area to be mined, I have serious concerns.

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 a 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, such as myself and family, be protected from airborne toxic contaminants?
3. Inadequate assessment of the danger to 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.

The United States Forest Service needs to live up to its long-standing responsibility for "Caring for the Land and Serving People". Extending the SDEIS comment period would be a responsible step in the right direction. We strongly urge the decision makers to do so.

Thank you and best regards,

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