I have been a resident of Valley County for 42 years. I have spent many years camping, hiking and fishing on the South Fork and East Fork of the Salmon River. I would like to comment on the proposed Perpetua Resources Gold Mine at Stibnite. I will mention several reasons that this proposal should be denied. There are many widespread problems that would arise if the proposed mine is allowed.

We would be looking at a large addition to the population of the local area with the working people needed for this project. They will need housing in the towns when off duty at the mine. There is already a housing shortage here that would only become worse. Public schools are at near maximum capacity. The traffic in McCall, Donnelly, and Cascade would be increased beyond the capacity we could accommodate. The year-round increase in heavy truck traffic hauling hazardous materials through our towns and backcountry roads, along critical streams and rivers is a risk that should not be allowed to happen here.

For the mining operation at the site, there are many environmental concerns that should be considered. The water use numbers in the EIS are astounding. The streams (headwaters of the East Fork, and Meadow Creek} would be drained, and they would drill wells for more water and lower groundwater levels. This would be a severe impact on the trees, shrubs, and other native plants in the area. Wildlife would also be impacted. The massive excavation at the mine would destroy critical habitats, including the Whitebark Pine, which plays an important role in snow stabilization and is under a proposal to be listed as a threatened species. The mine would introduce tons of hazardous chemicals to the mine site for processing the ore, and this is a huge risk. One fisheries biologist pointed out that one spill at the wrong time could wipe out the entire fish population, smolts, eggs and all. The mine would also introduce huge amounts of sewage effluent from the large number of employees working at the site. This is all unnecessary impact to the Stibnite site and can be avoided by denying this proposal.

The risks that this mine operation presents should not be allowed in this area, with critical fish habitat rivers at stake, and other environmental impacts that would occur. A lot of public national forest land would be in danger if this is approved. Stibnite is not the place for a giant open pit mine.