

Beth Kochevar
PII REDACTED

Stibnite Gold FEIS
Forest Supervisor Matt Davis, Payette National Forest

Dear Forest Supervisor,

In my Comment Letter (#18035 submitted on 1/9/2023) on the Stibnite Gold project, I commented on the inadequacy of the SDEIS in addressing 1) the negative effects of the mine and increased use in that area on anadromous fish and the communities that rely on them, 2) the contradiction of the project to the Nez Perce Treaty of 1855 and negative effects on tribal lands and cultural resources and 3) the lack of addressing increased greenhouse gases that will perpetuate climate change locally and globally.

In my response to my comment, the FEIS at Appendix B- pg #B-744 & B-745 responds: "No further response required. General in nature or position statement. It is acknowledged and understood that concerns regarding potential long-term environmental impacts, ecological integrity, and the well-being of potentially affected communities are valid and important to consider. During the decision-making process, the Forest Service will seek to identify the best possible balance between environmental protection, community needs, and sustainable forest management."

This response is inadequate because the Forest Service FEIS did not adequately respond to my comment and does not adequately address my concerns. Specifically, this FEIS response does not address my concerns about how Perpetua will mitigate the effects of possible truck spills and leaks from tailings ponds into the East Fork Salmon River watershed on anadromous fish populations. This response also does not address how Perpetua will minimize greenhouse gas emissions and/or mitigate exacerbating climate change impacts from mining operations.

The remedy for these violations is for the Forest Service to withdraw the FEIS and DROP and not issue any decision or take any action based on the inadequate FEIS. The Forest Service must not take any action until a revised FEIS and revised DROD demonstrate full compliance with each and every law, regulation, policy, Treaty, and requirement noted. The Regional Forester must withdraw the FEIS and DROD with instructions to the Payette National Forest to correct all errors noted before approving or taking any actions.

Sincerely,



Beth Kochevar