

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 12/10/2022 1:30:11 AM

First name: Rhys

Last name: McKinstry

Organization:

Title:

Comments: Dear Payette NF,

Please consider extending the comment period for the Stibnite Mine. As a former geoscientist, I worry the current mining regulations will not adequately protect this important watershed for both wildlife and communities downstream. I also worry about the associated costs of cleaning this mining site up once extraction has ceased. Sure, Perpetua Resources is obligated to clean up the site to EPA standards, but we must consider that Perpetua may not have the financial capacity to do this. In my home state of Montana, state taxpayers are still financing the cleanup for the Berkeley Pit. The mining corporation involved (ARCO) was unable to finance cleanup operations due to bankruptcy. And no, I am not talking about the crushing style of bankruptcy that the average citizen goes through. I am talking about company executives cashing out as they often do in mining before declaring "bankruptcy" for their company. Sure, we need these resources. Sure, there will be a positive economic impact to local Idahoan communities via mining jobs. But those positive economic impacts could be seriously offset by the financial burden of cleaning up this proposed mine site... paid for by none other than We the People. I also hope you will consider the impacts to water quality and wildlife. Idaho is one of the last best places. It has brought me endless joy as a kayaker and fisherman. We must protect this place not only for private recreation enthusiasts, but also for the whitewater, hunting, hiking, and fishing guide industry that are the lifeblood of these small Idahoan communities like Riggins and Banks. Thank you for your time and I hope you take my values into consideration.

Sincerely,

Rhys McKinstry