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Comments: Dear Forest Supervisor Jackson,

Thank you for this opportunity to comment on the Supplemental Draft Environmental Impact Statement (SDEIS) for the Stibnite Gold Project (SGP), proposed at the headwaters of the South Fork Salmon River watershed. As proposed, this project is bad for the environment, recreation and Indigenous peoples of Idaho. Most significantly, it has the potential to irrevocably damage one of the most amazing areas of Idaho.

As a life time resident of Idaho, I've had the extreme pleasure of recreating in the South Fork Salmon area for decades. It is my favorite place for camping, fishing, birdwatching, hiking and, most importantly, kayaking the East Fork of the South Fork (EFSF). I do not have the words to describe the joy this area has brought to my family and I can't bare the thought that we, along with future generations, will be robbed of it if the SGP is allowed to decimate it. The Forest Service must not allow this project to proceed.

Perpetua is only motivated by profit. Let's be honest: the destruction of this area isn't a concern for them. For them, even addressing environmental and cultural concerns is a nuisance. Their framing of the SGP as a 'restoration' project is a marketing ploy. In reality, the project is a massive industrial mine that will leave the landscape scarred for generations. We can't ignore the impact mining has on the landscape; all one has to do is to drive up the Yankee Fork to be reminded. And heartbroken. Please don't let something similar to happen to the EFSF. The SGP's proposal for THREE open pits, roads and associated structures, permanent storage of millions of tons of toxic mine tailings above previously undisturbed wetland habitat, and an expanded footprint that more than doubles the previous disturbance of the Stibnite mining district will permanently spoil this area.

We have so few wild places left in Idaho and it's incumbent on us to preserve them. Once they are destroyed, there will be no way to get them back. As proposed, the SGP is a threat to our state's invaluable Frank Church River of No Return Wilderness, as well as other waterways eligible for protection under the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act (WSRA). The project will affect overall water quality through sedimentation and possible deposit of mining-and-construction-related contaminants, both within project boundaries and for miles downstream. It will impact critical habitat of several sensitive species of fish, displace wildlife, and annihilate 120 acres of previously undisturbed wetland. These are all known risks associated with the "normal" operation of this project. What happens if there's an unexpected toxic spill?!?! The SDEIS currently does not address this adequately and the USFS must take it into account.

Finally, the SGP would violate the Treaty rights of the Nez Perce and other Indigenous peoples of Idaho. Either of the proposed alternatives in the SDEIS would block access to tribal lands within the project's boundary for TWENTY YEARS. Isn't this illegal? Moreover, given the way Indigenous peoples have been neglected and abused by the US government for centuries, further denial of the few rights they've been granted is immoral.

For these reasons, I urge the Forest Service to protect the Salmon River watershed and reject the proposed Stibnite mine plan.