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Comments: Linda Jackson Forest Supervisor, Stibnite Gold Project 1/5/23

The South Fork of the Salmon is part of the nimiipuu, Nez Perce Tribe's aboriginal territory, where they have retained their inherent rights. The U.S. Government has treaty obligations. The environment holds plants, animals, fish, and spiritual values that the Tribe depends upon. Approving Stibnite would violate Nez Perce's rights and damage the biodiversity of the Nez Perce territory.

Having read all three volumes of the SDEIS for the Stibnite mine

I have concluded there is no economic benefit for the communities of Valley County. The new report by IHESG also confirms that "the reason our local economy is thriving is because of our natural amenities: forests, lakes, rivers, fish, and wildlife." The visitor-recreation sector's total value to our economy is 447 million annually." Under the best assumptions, stibnite workers' pay is forecast to be a scant 2.5% of the total visitor-recreation sector plus non-labor income."

The most dangerous aspect of approving this mine would be to our environment and all the threats to the South Fork of the Salmon ecosystem, biodiversity in the area, wildlife corridors, wildlife habitat, and the South Fork of Salmon River, its tributaries, the fish, and all species dependent upon a healthy, clean river. The DEIS in 2020 noted, "The Stibnite Gold Project (SGP) would directly impact over 7 square miles of land and permanently degrade water quality in the East Fork of the South Fork of the Salmon River and damage miles of salmon, steelhead, and trout habitat. Additional threats include the potential for tailings dam failure (TSF), permanent water pollution by acid mine drainage and toxic metals, and cyanide spills."

The damage from a TSF spill would be catastrophic and take decades to clean up. Nature often defies our best engineering standards, and

humans are exceedingly good at construction and destruction but inadequate at restoring the natural world.

There are 1329 Superfund sites; 43 are proposed to be designated SFS, and only 452 places have been removed from the list in the U.S. We have 6 Superfund sites in Idaho.

The Idaho legacy of mining has left us with 1800 physical safety hazard sites from approximately 700 abandoned mines. We do not need to add to that list. The argument for mining Antimony is a false narrative that Perpetua Resources publicizes because 95% of The Stibnite mine will be an industrial gold mine. Only 5% of the mine will dedicate itself to Antimony which has viable substitutes and alternatives for approximately 90% of all end uses.

The mission of the Forest Service is to "sustain the health, diversity, and productivity of the nation's forests and grasslands to meet the needs of present and future generations." The Forest Service must uphold its mission statement by denying or taking no action on the proposed Stibnite mine.

Perpetua Resources and the SDEIS have not established or proven that the Stibnite mine will "sustain the health, diversity or productivity of the 7 square miles of South Fork of the Salmon River, which is our second largest tributary of the Salmon River. The risks of approving Stibnite outweigh any benefit to our community or the environment.

It's been said if there is magic on our planet, it is contained in Water, and every species needs clean Water. I am an angler, and Water brought me to the West, to Valley County. We have many threats to our Rivers, from warming temperatures and weather changes and runoff from the growth trend in Valley County. We are facing the possible extinction of salmon in Idaho. Why would the Forest Service ignore its mission statement and add to those problems by approving Perpetua Resources' plans to mine Gold and threaten our people, Water, land, and

wildlife? The answer is the Forest Service must stand up for the land and Water, respect the rights of the Nez Perce and take no action or deny the mine.

Thank you  
David Gallipoli