

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 1/5/2023 9:34:54 PM

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Comments: Please accept these comments on the Stibnite mining project, or more accurately, the latest project to further degrade and increase the extinction risk to anadromous fisheries in Central Idaho.

Perpetua Resources' proposal is just the latest scheme by a private company to extract a profit by putting public resources at risk. Perpetua Resources expects the public to accept the unacceptable: increase the likelihood of extinction of the fisheries of the South Fork Salmon River drainage, a drainage that has already been stretched to the limit of survivability by moronic logging practices, off road vehicle vandalism and some of the most egregious mining operations in Idaho. The fact that we still have anything left to enjoy in the South Fork Salmon River is a testament to the resiliency of Idaho's ecosystems and landscapes. That said, Perpetua Resources and the Forest Service seem determined to roll the dice yet one more time and put the South Fork Salmon River drainage in perhaps the greatest long-term risk we've seen in generations.

While making all kinds of promises to "restore" the East Fork Salmon River from past mining degradation, Perpetua Resources actually puts the East Fork's fisheries at further risk by conducting a massive mining operation. Perpetua Resources' restoration promises, based on, at best, questionable technology, is reminiscent of the endless promises power companies made as they advocated damming the Snake River in Hells Canyon. Pro-dam advocates in that case would say anything, to anybody, to sell the public on the promise that technology of the dams would preserve upstream anadromous fisheries. Anybody seen any wild anadromous fisheries in the upstream Boise and Payette River systems since the Hells Canyon dams were built?

Idaho would be best served if the Forest Service simply sent this proposal from Perpetua Resources packing. Idaho's anadromous fishery will not avert extinction unless all steps are taken to preserve it. That means protecting to the fullest possible extent every single mile of streams and rivers and every single acre of anadromous habitat in Idaho as well as breaching the lower Snake River dams. The times of lackadaisical, half measures to protect and restore Idaho's anadromous fisheries are over. There simply is no margin, no buffer left in Idaho's anadromous fisheries to absorb yet one more technological "oops" that is inevitable in an operation on the scale of Perpetua Resources' proposal.

The Forest Service's analysis of Perpetua Resources' proposal is lacking in many key areas, foremost which is a robust assessment of the cumulative effects of climate change on Idaho's anadromous fisheries. Climate change will inevitably further stress Idaho's anadromous fisheries and the cumulative risk from Perpetua Resources' proposal will add to that stress and must be evaluated.

Inevitable truck traffic increases on Highways 55 and 95 are not adequately addressed. More than 3000 truckloads of hazardous material annually on these highways are expected. Such traffic will completely change the character and safety of two of Idaho's major highways. Furthermore, year-round truck traffic on the Warm Lake, Landmark and Johnson Creek Roads will put the public at risk and greatly increase dust, noise and degradation to the surrounding landscape.

A road through the Burnt Log Roadless Area should not be built. Such a road, through an existing roadless area and adjacent to the Frank Church - River of No Return Wilderness Area, will irrevocably change the character of that landscape. Traffic on this road, particularly winter traffic and snowplowing, poses a risk to mountain goats and wolverines. It seems extremely unlikely that this road can be successfully plowed in the winter. It is more likely that this road gets built through the Burnt Log Roadless Area, attempts are made for a few winters to keep the road open, but inevitably the costs and burden of keeping this high elevation road open through the winter are such that the effort is abandoned. Then Idahoans can look forward to a new threat to the South Fork Salmon

River's anadromous fish through hazardous truck traffic, in the winter, along the South Fork and/or Johnson Creek.

In closing, I urge the Forest Service to disapprove this degradation proposal and send it back to Perpetua Resources.