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First name: Pat

Last name: Ford

Organization:

Title:

Comments: I urge the Payette Forest to reject the proposal by "Perpetua" to mine in the headwaters of the South Fork of the Salmon River.

The risk to wild salmon is just too high. Anadromous fish are an outstanding resource and component of central Idaho's public lands, in this case the South Fork Salmon. I don't think the Payette can allow this project AND responsibly steward the natal habitats of extinction-bound Chinook salmon, as required by law and treaties.

I have yet to talk with a salmon or aquatic scientist with knowledge of the South Fork and its salmon who has anything good to say about this project. It is not hard to see why, if you know something about both salmon and this country, as I do. No one can know the future, but the risk is not worth taking biologically, economically, or legally. The salmon must come first; this is a national forest. As it happens, putting salmon first is also best for Idaho. Relevant U.S treaties with indigenous peoples must also come before this project.

The Payette Forest cannot restore wild salmon to the South Fork. That must come from Administration and Congressional action to remove four dams of replaceable value on the lower Snake River. But the Payette can steward and safeguard the natal habitats the salmon will need to spread throughout the South Fork again, once downstream mortalities are alleviated. It's a fundamental job for the Forest. The "Perpetua" project is incompatible with it. Please deny this project, or any new version of the same scale and risk. Thank you for considering my concerns and wishes.