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First name: Diane

Last name: Kastel

Organization:

Title:

Comments: Our Family Is Speaking Up For "The River of No Return Wilderness"!

The Forest Service" MUST deny the permit for "Perpetua Resource" 's "Stibnite Gold Project", and, require "Perpetua" to finish cleaning up the, mine, site! It is worth noting that the Nez Perce Tribe has been, actively, working to clean up the South Fork of the Salmon, and, has challenged this, mining, proposal. The, last, thing the area needs is, more, toxic mining pollution and, all, other, harmful impacts!

"Perpetua Resources" (formerly "Midas Gold") is proposing a, massive, strip mine on the "Payette National Forest" at the doorstep of the, famed, Frank Church-River of No Return Wilderness" and in the headwaters of the East Fork of the South Fork of the Salmon River in Idaho! The, 2.4 million-acre, "River of No Return Wilderness" is one of the, wildest, areas in the, lower, 48, and the East Fork of the South Fork of the Salmon River is popular for recreation and critical for, endangered, native wildlife!

Millions of dollars have, already, been spent by the Nez Perce Tribe, and, the federal, government in trying to clean up the legacy of, past, mining impacts! Now, "Perpetua Resources" wants to re-open, and, expand, former, mine pits here for its, proposed, cyanide vat leach gold mine called "Stibnite Gold Project"! The mine puts not only the Wilderness at risk, but, also, this, important, river, and, endangered, species such as salmon, steelhead, and, bull trout!

The "Stibnite Gold Project" doubles the, old, mine's, existing, footprint, would use up to a fifth of the water in part of the East Fork of the South Fork, and, includes about 1,800 acres of, mine, pits, 15 miles of, new, roads (plus, dozens of miles of, currently, remote "USFS" roads), a, 400 foot-high, tailings dam for, 100 million, tons of materials, more than 3,000, annual, hazardous vehicle trips, year-round, traffic for the mine's, 25-year, time period, and, other, infrastructure within the, nearly, 30,000-acre, project area!

Under the "Preferred, Alternative", road, construction, and, mining, operations would cause, serious, impacts to the "River of No Return Wilderness", including noise audible from a, nearly, 2-mile, radius, wildlife, disturbance, and, displacement, increased, access to, and, activity in, what are, now, quiet and, lightly-visited, places, in the Wilderness, and, sediment, pollution in streams within the Wilderness! The, Wilderness, evaluation, erroneously, downplays impacts!

If all this were not bad enough, a, new, road would be constructed along a ridge that forms the boundary of the Wilderness! The, new, proposed, road would sit 100 feet from the, Wilderness, boundary, or, could, even, enter the Wilderness! And, while the "Supplemental Draft Environmental Impact Statement" alleges the road would be 100 feet from the, Wilderness, boundary, the, most, logical location for the road seems to be an, existing, pack trail that dips into the Wilderness!