Data Submitted (UTC 11): 1/6/2023 12:35:00 AM First name: June Last name: Esposito Organization: Title:

Comments: I am writing to ask you to deny a permit to Perpetua Resources to reopen its strip mining operation called the Stibnite Gold Project. This project, if approved, would cause irreparable harm to the Frank Church-River of No Return wilderness area. This company has not yet cleaned up the harm it caused already.

The Stibnite Gold Project puts not only the famed Frank Church-River of No Return Wilderness at risk, but also the East Fork of the South Fork of the Salmon River and endangered species such as salmon, steelhead, and bull trout. This is unacceptable.

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. This is also unacceptable, and the wilderness evaluation erroneously downplays these impacts.

The new proposed road would sit 100 feet from the wilderness boundary or could even enter the Wilderness, as the most logical location for the road seems to be an existing pack trail that dips into the Wilderness. The last thing this area needs is more toxic mining and associated impacts.

For all these reasons, I request that you deny the permit for Perpetua Resource's Stibnite Gold Project and require Perpetua to finish cleaning up the mine site.

Thank you.