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First name: Aeron

Last name: Wild

Organization:

Title:

Comments: The proposed strip mine on the River of No Return Wilderness by Perpetua Resources is a risky and dangerous endeavour that will put at risk one of the wildest remaining habitats. There are many endangered and critically endangered species as well as the East Fork of the South Fork of the salmon river that will be put in serious jeopardy by a project of this magnitude. There is also a proposed road that will cause serious impact on the wilderness and the wildlife by disrupting their natural habitat, causing stress and displacement because of loud vehicles and operation of machinery, pollution and human activity. The chemical pollution that will be created by the strip mine is more than enough of a reason enough to put an immediate halt to this proposed project including the fact that it will involve using up to one fifth of the water in the park.

Critically endangered species such as salmon, bull trout and steelhead are already susceptible to extinction and they need a quiet, clean, natural environment so they will engage in normal behaviours and mating rituals. The pollution, constant noise, activity, disruption by humans and machinery will completely alter the landscape, purity of the water and land and the peacefulness of the River of No Return Wilderness.

The Nez Perce Tribe along with the Federal government has already spent millions of dollars trying to clean up the decimation from prior mining projects and all of this effort and money will have been wasted if a new strip mine is approved.

Lastly and most importantly is the big picture. We are facing an existential threat from climate change. Human activity and pollution is pushing natural habitats and wildlife to its limit. We have already seen the effects of erratic weather patterns that are wreaking havoc around the globe. Habitat loss is intrinsically linked to climate vulnerability and at a time when one million species are at risk of extinction. We must do everything in our power to change our destructive and impactful behaviour and change our focus to the preservation and protect of the remaining wild habitats that support a health ecosystem of plants animals and water natural systems.

There is too much at stake to destroy this wilderness for another yet another dirty strip mine, project especially when the damage from past mines and projects is still affecting the environment.

I urge the Forest Service to please take into account the magnitude of risk that is associated with with a project such as this and to deny Perpetua's proposed mine permit. In addition it should be mandated that Perpetua finish cleaning up the mine site. It is all too common that after a project, mining companies just move on and leave an environmental disaster behind them. This should not be an acceptable practice in this day and age because it has a global impact.

Thank you for your consideration .