Data Submitted (UTC 11): 1/6/2023 1:14:04 AM First name: Melvin Last name: Herlin Organization: Title:

Comments: I have had the great good fortune to have rafted and camped on the Salmon River and its forks. It was an experience I will cherish for life. Preserving wild rivers and their surrounding environment for future generations to enjoy is so obviously a vital national quality of life policy priority. Once gone, it won't come back. Compared to mining interests, it should be a non-starter. Short term destructive polluting mining disruption vs. long term preservation of wild and scenic environments that are invaluable national heritage areas cannot be justified. The case points made below should be seriously considered.

***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.

***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 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.

***The Forest Service needs to deny the permit for Perpetua Resource's Stibnite Gold Project and require Perpetua to finish cleaning up the mine site.