

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 1/6/2023 1:46:22 AM

First name: Heide

Last name: Coppotelli

Organization:

Title:

Comments: I have a huge question for you -- what will your grandchildren say at your funeral about the decisions you made when you were in a position to protect irreplaceable wilderness and wildlife for their future and that of their children from the forces of greed for gold to approve yet another devastating gold mine?

That may sound like an oversimplification on first look. But it really does come down to a simple choice of what we value -- precious, irreplaceable life OR gold -- and the actions we take that express those values.

The damage already done and the immense cost to our country -- including its native tribes -- of cleaning up that damage should stand foremost in your mind and constitute a bulwark against what is now being proposed.

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, not grant permission to do more damage.

You've seen these points made before, but I want to reiterate their validity here:

*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.

Thank you for taking this matter to heart and letting it touch your soul.