Data Submitted (UTC 11): 1/6/2023 2:08:47 AM

First name: Steve Last name: KEIM Organization:

Title:

Comments: Mining and wilderness are not a good mix. 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 as well as endangered 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. There would be noise audible from a nearly 2-mile radius - hardly something that those enjoying quiet solitude of a wilderness area would find tolerable. It would cause wildlife disturbance and displacement. There would be increased access to and activity in what are now quiet and lightly-visited places in the Wilderness. Sediment and pollution caused by these activities would adversely affect the streams within the Wilderness.

The wilderness evaluation incorrectly diminishes these impacts.

The new proposed road would sit within 100 feet of the wilderness boundary or possibly 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.