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Comments: I am an ecologist and educator in North Carolina. I am deeply concerned about the proposed gold mine--gold mines are notorious for polluting the surrounding water and land, which has the potential to affect anything that lives downstream. Please do not allow this mine.

The Stibnite Gold Project poses severe risks, not only to the famed Frank Church-River of No Return Wilderness, but also to the East Fork of the South Fork of the Salmon River and to 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.

I hope the Forest Service will deny the permit for Perpetua Resource's Stibnite Gold Project and require Perpetua to finish cleaning up the mine site.