Data Submitted (UTC 11): 1/6/2023 6:02:13 AM

First name: Deborah Last name: Tash Organization:

Title:

Comments: I am writing today to urge the US Forest Service to deny the permit for the Stibnite Gold Project to continue. The last thing the River Of No Return area needs is more toxic mining and associated impacts. We need to protect and preserve the last few truly wild places in the United States both for our communal welfare and the welfare of our environment. Perpetua Resources needs to take responsibility for finishing the restoration after their last strip mining projects, not begin and expand the destruction they've caused in the past with this proposed project.

The Stibnite Gold Project not only puts 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. This is reprehensible.

The Stibnite Gold Project's 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 irresponsibly and erroneously downplays these impacts. as the new proposed road would sit 100 feet from the wilderness boundary or could even enter the Wilderness because the most logical location for the road seems to be an existing pack trail that dips into the Wilderness.

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 enable further this toxic and polluting project.