

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 1/6/2023 2:31:15 PM

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Comments: Please follow the lead of the Nez Perce Tribe and deny Perpetua Resources' permit for the Stibnite Gold Project. That site needs to be cleaned up, not reopened.

To quote Missoula's own Wilderness Watch, "The Stibnite Gold Project doubles the old mine's existing footprint, would use up to a fifth of the water in part of the East Fork of the South Fork, and includes about 1,800 acres of mine pits, 15 miles of new roads (plus dozens of miles of currently remote USFS roads), a 400 foot-high tailings dam for 100 million tons of materials, more than 3,000 annual hazardous vehicle trips, year-round traffic for the mine's 25-year time period, and other infrastructure within the nearly 30,000-acre project area."

Too much environmentally destructive activity right at the boundary of the Frank Church-River of No Return Wilderness really does seem to violate the intent of the law: road construction, polluting mine sediment, heavy vehicular activity, wildlife disruption in the Wilderness are all inevitable results of mine operations when things are going according to plan. And when something goes wrong - as something always does - it's going to be disastrous for not only the Frank Church Wilderness but also the South Fork of the Salmon River watershed, home to endangered salmon, steelhead, and bull trout.

We need to be expanding wilderness, not cyanide vat leach gold mine operations. The value of mature forest as the planet's best carbon sequestration mechanism is only now coming to be understood, and the looming impacts of the global extinction event underline the importance of habitat protection: biodiversity is certainly more precious than gold.

You all have children, and you're concerned about their futures and the future of the planet. You know this project isn't about caring for the land or serving people; it's an example of an obsolete (bankrupt) paradigm of industry capture that it's past time for the USFS to reject.