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Comments: The River of No Return Wilderness needs protection.

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 that live there.

Under the preferred alternative, road construction and mining operations would cause serious impacts to the River of No Return Wilderness. 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 presence of the road will introduce 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 last thing this area needs is more toxic mining and associated impacts. History has shown that these operations fail to hold corporations operating them accountable for the long term damage they inflict on the environment.

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.

Thank you for considering these concerns.