

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 1/6/2023 4:04:44 PM

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Comments: I am writing today to urge the Forest Service to deny the permit for Perpetua Resource's Stibnite Gold Project and require Perpetua to finish cleaning up the mine site.

The 2.4 million-acre River of No Return Wilderness is one of the wildest areas in the lower 48, and the East Fork of the South Fork of the Salmon River is popular for recreation and critical for endangered native wildlife. This is no place for a massive strip mine. Not to mention that millions of dollars have already been spent by the Nez Perce Tribe and the federal government in trying to clean up the legacy of past mining impacts. The mine puts not only the Wilderness at risk, but also this important river and endangered species such as salmon, steelhead, and bull trout.

This is a WILDERNESS area. The last thing the area needs is more toxic mining pollution and all other harmful impacts.

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.

The wilderness evaluation erroneously downplays these impacts.

With the current state of climate change, mass extinction, and loss of our nations last remaining wilderness areas we all must fight together to protect the River of No Return Wilderness and its wildlife. I expect the Forest Service to help in this fight.