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First name: Peter

Last name: Rimbo

Organization:

Title:

Comments: The Forest Service should deny the mine permit and require Perpetua to finish cleaning up the mine site. The Nez Perce Tribe has been actively working to clean up the South Fork of the Salmon and has challenged this mining proposal. The last thing the area needs is more toxic mining pollution and all other harmful impacts.

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.

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.

Thank you.