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First name: David
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Organization: Idaho State ATV Association
Title:
Comments: Dear Supervisor Jackson:

The Idaho State ATV Association is an Idaho nonprofit corporation that represents thousands of ATV and UTV recreationists throughout Idaho. Our members are club, families and individuals that enjoy operating their motorized vehicles on federal lands for pleasure, sightseeing and general enjoyment of life. We are proud advocates of the philosophy of Keeping the Roads and Trails Open for All - we do not discriminate against users and value a network of roads and trails that accommodates everyone, with or without motor or machine. Many of our members regularly recreate in the Payette National Forest including the federally managed lands adjacent to the Perpetua project area.

ISATVA supports the Forest Service's selection of the 2021 Modified Mine Plan Alternative in the Supplemental Draft Environmental Impact Statement. Our leadership and many of our members have worked with Perpetua over the years and found them to be good neighbors who care about the environment and Idahoans. Valley County is in dire need of economic growth; however, it is crucial that we do not overlook the economic stability of small communities like Yellow Pine. The proposed plan would eliminate snowmobile access to Yellow Pine for three years. This would likely close the few remaining businesses that are open year-round. We believe it is possible to retain snowmobile access to Yellow Pine by allowing Burnt Log to Thunder Mountain roads be groomed during construction, then 1 mile West parallel to the Johnson Creek Road using the Power-line right-of-way to Wapiti Meadow. We are confident that the no-net gain rule will not be a problem. The keeper of the numbers in this regard is Valley County & I believe their comments will address no-net gain.

We also are pleased that a new groomed trail is proposed from Warm Lake to Landmark but there is no designated access from Landmark East to the Stanley groomed trail and there needs to be! The new and temporary groomed trail to Landmark needs to cross the Warm Lake Road and continue on to connect with the Deadwood and Stanley groomed trail. This connection is not shown in the SDEIS.

Our history with Perpetua has included cooperation and trust. We value the partnership we have developed, and Perpetua working with us to keep routes open and accessible, and allow our users to view and visit historic Idaho mining sites that are part of our shared cultural heritage. We are confident Perpetua will continue this amenability in the future. Perpetua is a good neighbor and good steward.

This project is not only very important to Idaho but also to the nation. We urge you to approve the project and that can be done without impacting the economic stability of small towns.

Thank you for considering our comments.