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Comments: I understand that Perpetua Resources (formerly Midas Gold) is proposing a massive strip mine on the Payette National Forest at the doorstep of the famed Frank Church-River of No Return Wilderness and in the headwaters of the East Fork of the South Fork of the Salmon River in Idaho. 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.

The Nez Perce Tribe and the federal government have spent so much money already to clean up the legacy of past mining impacts. Allowing Perpetua to re-open and expand former mine pits here for its proposed cyanide vat leach gold mine called Stibnite Gold Project would cause unwanted noise pollution and puts the Wilderness and endangered wildlife at risk.

It appears that past evaluations and proposals for possible roadways etc. have downplayed the risks involved and disregards the livelihood and dependence of the Nez Perce Tribe on the salmon. Actually, the Tribe is still in the process of clean-up of prior mining tragedies.

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 taking my comments.