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Organization:

Title:

Comments: As a concerned citizen who has personally seen the disastrous effects of climate pollution and wilderness decimation, I implore you to deny the permit for Perpetua Resource's Stibnite Gold Project; and, instead, 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. Perpetua's Stibnite Gold Project would double 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 include 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. 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. Furthermore, 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.

The Nez Perce Tribe and federal government have already spent millions of dollars trying to clean up the legacy of past mining impacts. In fact, the Nez Perce Tribe is already actively working to clean up the South Fork of the Salmon. Therefore, the last thing this area needs is more toxic mining and associated impacts. As such, the permit for Perpetua Resource's Stibnite Gold Project needs to be denied. Instead, require Perpetua to finish cleaning up the mine site in order to prevent further ecological damage.