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Comments: Please permanently reject the proposed Stibnite Gold Mine project and do not allow any component of this plan (including the construction of mining-associated infrastructure such as roads) to go forward! Gold mines (and gold-ore processing facilities) are inherently dangerous to all nearby waterways (such as the Salmon River); open-pit mines are inherently environmentally catastrophic; and, even in the best-case scenario where nothing goes more wrong than usual with a mine (i.e., even if there aren't any spills of mine tailings or other waste into local waterways, an optimistic assumption that I wouldn't count on), none of the proposed reclamation and restoration steps would fully compensate for the initial damage caused by tearing a massive quantity of potentially gold-laced rocks out of the ground (not to mention carving up the surrounding currently-excellent wildlife habitat with multiple new roadways so that trucks and other vehicles can get to the proposed giant hole in the ground).

I am a geoscience doctoral candidate (seismology, more specifically), and majored in physics in undergrad. I love gold (both for its beauty and its conductive properties), and I do understand its utility (e.g., in circuitry). At the moment, though, the world desperately needs its all-too-rare relatively intact ecosystems to *\*stay\** intact, and that need is much greater than anyone's need for the gold within the Payette National Forest. Please let the gold stay where it's at, and reject Perpetua Resource's proposed open-pit catastrophe of a mine.

(Also, although this is far from the most important reason to reject this mining proposal: I find it both grimly funny and insulting that the mine-proposing company's current name is "Perpetua Resources" (which implies that there's something eternal or at least sustainable about their operations, and would therefore be a much better name for a metal-recycling company than for a company which can't think of any better way of obtaining gold than to carve yet another giant hole in the ground), and that their former name was apparently "Midas Gold," which...implies that they either have a really weak grasp of the story of King Midas, or they actively *\*want\** to ruin their own lives and those of everyone around them by accidentally turning everything life-sustaining into gold. I suppose that may be a metaphor for the mercury contamination that often goes along with gold-ore processing?)

Thank you for your time and consideration!