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Title:

Comments: As a retired professional environmental engineer who's 25-year working career involved remediating contaminated sites, mostly aquatic Superfund sites, I do not see how approving the permit(s) to Perpetua Resource's Stibnite Gold Project is "Caring for the Land and Serving People". Caring for the land and serving people would require the US Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) to use its considerable powers to demand Perpetua to complete the remedial cleanup of the existing mine site(s) and forbid any new expansion of a massive strip-mining operation in this Forest and Wilderness area - our publicly-owned lands that the US Forest Service (USFS) is supposed to hold and protect on Americans' behalf.

As you no doubt understand, 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. It's the LAST defilement this area needs - more harmful mining and its' associated impacts to air, land, water, wildlife and natural habitat.

Specifically, as you know, 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 is now a quiet and lightly-visited sanctuary in the Wilderness, and sediment pollution in streams within the Wilderness. The inadequate wilderness evaluation erroneously downplays these impacts.

And the new proposed road would be aligned only 100 feet from the wilderness boundary or could even impinge upon the Wilderness, as the most logical location for the road seems to be an existing pack trail that enters into the Wilderness.

I have enjoyed our beautiful western public lands - both Forest and Wilderness lands - in AK, WA, OR, CA, NV, CO, AZ and NM, and can not imagine hiking or riding my horse in the 2.4 million-acre River of No Return Wilderness which is one of the wildest areas in the lower 48 states, and coming upon the sight of an, enormous, heinous strip mine. Please - the USFS NEEDS to deny the expanded mine permit and require Perpetua to finish cleaning up the existing mine site.

Thank you for your service to the American people.