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Comments: *Perpetua Resources wants to re-open and expand former mine pits in the Payette National Forest adjacent to the Frank Church-River of No Return Wilderness. It is up to the USFS to take appropriate steps to protect the Wilderness that lies so close to the mine and which will undoubtedly be polluted by further mine development.

*Specifically, I oppose the Stibnite Gold Project and ask the Forest Service to deny Perpetua Resources its "preferred alternative" (Supplemental Draft Environmental Impact Statement) for a strip mine in the Payette National Forest. Operation of a cyanide vat leach gold mine would emit toxic pollutants and introduce transportation infrastructure and industrial noise that will harm the adjacent Frank Church-River of No Return Wilderness. Furthermore, the sediments and solid wastes from the mine would threaten the East Fork of the South Fork of the Salmon River, which serves as a popular fishing and rafting water and contains endangered species such as salmon, steelhead, and bull trout.

*Under the preferred alternative, the access road to the mines is sited at about 100 feet from the Wilderness boundary. However, the proposed ridge course for the road may breach the Wilderness area by diversion along the boundary at some point(s) to facilitate construction.

*Both road construction and mining operations would cause serious impacts to the River of No Return Wilderness. These include machinery noises audible from a nearly 2-mile radius. The displacement of wildlife by industrial noise imposes risks for survival of many species. Furthermore, such noise is known to stress wildlife and impact their behaviors, including the reproductive processes and nesting of birds. Additionally, the mine would increase sediment pollution in streams within the Wilderness, impacting the water quality.

* It is known that the waste and pollution of the former closed mine pits have not been cleaned up. The Nez Perce Tribe has been actively working to clean up the South Fork of the Salmon polluted by the former mine pits. I stand with the Tribe in challenging this new mining proposal and ask that USFS firmly deny Perpetua Resource's Stibnite Gold Project and require Perpetua Resource to finish cleaning up the pollution they generated from the former mine pits.