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Comments: Having lived in Montana for some years, I know how devastating mining can be, even to urban areas like Butte.

We live on what was once a beautiful, diverse planet but humans in their greed have wreaked havoc on Earth's natural systems and balance. As our daily habits, especially exploiting the earth for fossil fuels and minerals, drive the climate crisis, it is imperative, for the sake of our children and future generations that we cease these destructive activities and allow our small planet to begin to recover from human depredations.

To allow the Stibnite Gold Project to go forward would endanger and destroy the integrity of the Frank Church-River of No Return Wilderness and the East Fork of the South Fork of the Salmon River. It would halt the recovery of such endangered species as salmon, steelhead, and bull trout.

The road construction and mining operations of the preferred alternative would seriously harm the ecosystem of the River of No Return Wilderness by 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.

The wilderness evaluation fails to acknowledge 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.

Having invested an effort to recover this area, it is an insult to the public to now invite back toxic mining and all its destructive consequences.

It's time for the Forest Service to recognize its responsibility to the US public and future generations and to deny the permit for Perpetua Resource's Stibnite Gold Project and require Perpetua to finish cleaning up the mine site.