

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 1/7/2023 11:17:04 PM

First name: Carolyn

Last name: Coiner

Organization:

Title:

Comments: Dear Forest Service Decision Makers,

I have significant concerns with the Stibnite/Perpetua mining project as it is proposed in the SDEIS. The South Fork of the Salmon River is a very special landscape. I think the project as proposed would create irreversible damage to this landscape which supports threatened fish, wildlife, and is used by many Idahoans and Tribal members for recreation and sustenance.

I have the following questions that I feel should be answered before the project is approved:

1. Where will the 3,000 projected loads of hazardous material will be traveling? I frequently drive Highway 55 between Boise and McCall to a family cabin. Currently it is often bumper to bumper traffic. Vehicle traffic in McCall in the summertime and during holidays and Winter Carnival is very congested. How will this additional mine traffic affect the already marginally functional traffic patterns? Safety is another issue that I have a concern with. Hazardous material loads traveling along Highway 55 adjacent to the Payette River seems like an accident waiting to happen. What are the precautions Perpetua will have in place to handle the inevitable spill on this dangerous highway?

2. It seems to me the project is being presented as a way to restore fish habitat, when the data in the SDEIS shows this is not actually the case. Some of the proposed restoration benefits will not happen for 100 years after mining operations are finished. Threatened bull trout will be gone by then due to high water temperatures. Perpetua should be required to show how can streams be recovered faster.

The project proposes using reclaimed topsoil and organic material to revegetate streams, therefore reducing water temperatures that harm fish. There will not be enough topsoil to accomplish this. Where will the remaining topsoil come from? This should be established prior to permitting the project. I was a registered landscape architect and know very well how difficult it is to revegetate disturbed landscapes, particularly in our climate and with our fragile soils. It is rarely successful. I do not think this plan is feasible or realistic. What can be done to prevent the degradation of streams in the project area in the first place?

3. Air quality pollution from the project is of concern to me. My understanding is that dust from the mining activities will contain high levels of arsenic. Will there be real time monitoring on the public route through the mine site to Thunder Mountain? Please require this to protect the public.

4. We all know that climate change is impacting all aspects of our environment. This will only get worse. The current analysis does not take the impacts of climate change into account. Please require a Supplemental analysis to determine how mining activity, mine reclamation, and stream restoration will be affected by climate change. The Forest Service and the public should not be left holding the bag for these future impacts that are entirely predictable.

Sincerely,

Carolyn Coiner