

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 1/9/2023 12:31:24 AM

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Organization:

Title:

Comments: I have a small home in McCall, right off the Boydston-Deinhard connection, and am building an Earthen home in Riggins, close to the Main Salmon River. Both of these communities and their natural environments will be adversely affected by the allowance of Perpetua's Stibnite mining proposal.

McCall and Riggins depend on recreational activities in which their economies thrive. Attracting tens of thousands of people a year for fishing, boating, hiking, and other activities. Why have transportation studies not been included for the highways (55 and 95) and routes which connect these towns, as well as the Boydston-Deinhard connection? Citizens have a right to know how the numbers of trucks, traffic and materials transported will impact their roads, safety and neighborhoods. Studies must be made and reliable information available to all of us.

Levels of arsenic, mercury, and other toxins already exist in the mining area from previous mining. The increased expansion of the two pits and creation of a third will only increase the level of water, land and air pollution. It will accelerate the contamination of the South Fork of the Salmon river, which flows directly downstream into the Main Salmon.

The Main Salmon is a designated, wild and scenic river. It's waters, the environment and the fish deserve protection from the catastrophic damage that mining is proven to have. Not to mention the infringement on the Native American treaty rights in which their livelihood depends. The steelhead, chinook and bull trout are already endangered. This will only enhance their demise.

I would personally like to know about noise, pollution as well. How will the increase noise pollution disturb wildlife habitats, migration patterns, and reproductive cycles? The mining alone, not to mention the noise and disturbance of the trucks transporting materials, water and fuel will be horrendously damaging. I ask you to check into that.

The areas in which the waste and rubble are being dumped into pits, will destroy every living thing under and around these pit areas and will never be reclaimed. How can the Forest Service allow such destruction? What Perpetua determines to be able to reclaim will not happen in our lifetime. An irreparable raping of mother earth and her inhabitants, both plant and animal for 15 to 20 years of jobs? Only to line the pockets of a wealthy mining company and its investors, people who don't care about the citizens or natural world that is Idaho.

We all live here or visit Idaho because of its pristine beauty and bountiful resources.

Recreationists, nature lovers, farmers, ranchers and sportsmen and women alike, love and respect the resources that Idaho provides. It is the purpose of and responsibility of the National Forest Service to protect all of it. These are public lands! Do not assume that mining takes precedence.

Perpetua lacks integrity when it comes to how they underhandedly win the praise of people who support them. They will never be able to reclaim or clean up that which they are destroying. They convince people that they can, or they buy those people off.

Idaho and her natural environment deserve our protection.

I ask that you deny this proposal.

Kay La Bella