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First name: Molly

Last name: Lukes

Organization:

Title:

Comments: Dear Forest Service,

I am greatly concerned about the proposed Stibnite Mine Project and the effects it will have on the water sources around the area. I grew up in McCall, living there my whole life until I went away to college, but I come back at least twice a year to visit and indulge in the many outdoor activities that the area has to offer. Though this proposal has many negative aspects, my biggest concern is the contaminants, waste, and excess sediment that will enter the water sources surrounding the mine. Water recreation like fishing and rafting are the backbone of the economy in Idaho, supporting multiple direct and indirect business with tourism and recreation from locals. Why would you risk endangering this recreational economy for promises from outsiders with no connection to the land that their methods of containment will work (even when they have failed at numerous other mines) knowing the waste will threaten the site long after Perpetua has made its profit and left? I currently live in New Mexico, where water is treated as the precious and valuable resource it is. They are very cognizant here of conserving the small amount of water we have and you pay heavily if you overuse water with extra charges on your water bill in high seasons. From this perspective, it seems even more insane that you would both give Perpetua free use of the tremendous amount of water it will take to run the mine and then also give them carte blanche to potentially alter the entire ecosystem around the mine with excess sediment, changing the temperature of the water, and endangering waterline with waste and spills. With this in mind, I urge you to not approve the mine and take the no action alternative. As stewards of our public land, you should be closely analyzing all potential risks and considering the people these decisions will directly affect, because there is no restoration of water sources once they have been wiped out of life.