Data Submitted (UTC 11): 1/9/2023 3:12:21 AM
First name: David
Last name: Cavanaugh-Keyek
Organization:
Title:
Comments: To whom it may concern,

I am writing to you to encourage the US Forest Service to deny the permit for the Stibnite Gold Project and continue the clean up of the current mine sight. This expansion of the mine would create irreversible damage to a sensitive and diverse ecosystem, which is one of the last in existence in the lower 48. The Frank Church- River of No Return Wilderness is a prosperous wilderness area that provides recreation opportunities for thousands of people and is home to rivers and endangered species. The expansion of the mine would impact the threatened species of salmon, steel-head, and bull trout. This mine will forever change the wilderness area, and damage communities, ecosystems, and species beyond repair.

With the mine site being at the gateway to the Frank Church, the road construction and mining operations would cause serious impacts to the River of No Return Wilderness, including 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 logical location for the road will likely cross over the protected wilderness boundaries. The last thing this unique and fragile ecosystem needs is more toxic mining that is associated with many existing issues.

I ask that you please consider the reality of this proposed mine project, and the utter mistake that you will make if approved. You have the power to help keep this wilderness area a lasting and rich ecosystem, whose benefits are beyond any gold mine. Please keep Frank Church-River of No Return Wilderness Wild, for us, and for the future generations of recreationalists and species who thrive with its success. Deny the Stibnite Gold Project permit and finish cleaning up the current mine site.
Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

David Cavanaugh-Keyek