

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 1/9/2023 8:22:53 PM

First name: Scott

Last name: Keithley

Organization:

Title:

Comments: I want to comment on the SDEIS for the Stibnite gold project.

I have lived in the Lakefork area for 37 years and I have a cabin on the South Fork of the Salmon river at Trails End subdivision for 30 years. I have recreated the area around the proposed mine project even before I moved to the area. I have spent many weeks hiking, fishing, camping, backpacking, trail bike riding and trail clearing, hunting, and harvesting forest products like firewood berries and mushrooms in the greater area around the existing mine site. I have a deep connection with this area. I believe I have as much local knowledge as anyone you might meet. I believe the proposed project is going to irreversibly change the area in a way that can't be restored or put back like it was. This area has many places with near wilderness character in easier to access modes than the adjacent FCRNRW does. I am not that opposed to mining on the current mine footprint and with the existing road infrastructure. My issues with the SDEIS are as follows.

First I think that the road to the mine needs to stay on Johnson Creek. The Burnt Log route will destroy the character of the existing landscape for many lifetimes. The Idaho roadless rule protects this type of place and I believe you have totally disregarded that act to put the new road thru there. There are concerns about fragmenting wildlife corridors with the new road and also proximity to wolverine dening areas in the winter. I personally have seen wolverines in the area the new road is proposed in, which are the only ones I've seen in the 40 years I have spent out in this forest. The explosives that will be used to try and control the Avalanche hazard will surely drive any nearby wolverine from its den, has this been studied? The threat of a spill from a slide hitting a transport truck has got to be much higher due to the length of the road thru avalanche terrain and its higher elevation. The road is very close to the boundary of the FCRNRW and will encourage motorized trespass into this area especially in the winter. I also believe that money spent on a road should be put into Johnson Creek road which would benefit all those visitors in the future that recreate here, not on a road that will have to be decommissioned in the future and have no benefit to residents, just an eyesore for another 100 years as Mother Nature tries and reclaim it.

Next I want to bring attention to the lack of studies on the threat of spills and increased traffic on HWY 55, 95 and thru our local communities of Cascade, Mccall Donnelly and New Meadows. I think there will be a lot of impact and is there any way to mitigate this?

I believe that there is going to be impacts to my power bill that are going to result from the massive amount of power consumed by the mine. Why is there not any study about this? Can we require the mine to help pay for additional Idaho Power infrastructure, preferably green, to cover their usage so our rates don't go up? Additionally the amount of emissions compared to Valley County is sickening, effectively doubling the current amount. Is there any way to reduce this? We didn't move here because it was polluted, we came for the clean air and water.

The effects on our current infrastructure of housing, schools, power, roads, hospitals, groceries, etc. was not adequately studied. How do we mitigate the effects for the next 20 years on these resources that are mostly at capacity right now and we are still seeing massive growth of people moving to and visiting our area.

Even though Perpetua has promised to restore the site, what guarantee to we have if prices drop or the company fails that the mine will not just be left for the taxpayers to try and fix? The plan says that even after restoration that stream temps will be higher than current. What about that plus climate change and further warming? Will the already threatened fish in the rivers and streams flowing from the site be able to survive? We are the only hope for these fish and we need to be responsible stewards and preserve their critical habitat.

Storing waste rock on existing impacted ground is acceptable to me, irreversibly damaging pristine wetlands on public land is not acceptable and I believe is illegal and should not be permitted by the forest service.

Having to treat water long after the mine is gone and done with extraction should not be left to the people living in Valley County. There must be some way to do the mining so that the water is not polluted and anything less is a crime against all of us and the fish and wildlife that inhabit the river and the area around it. Water pollution from previous mining is a problem many places in this country and the world, especially in areas like

ours with lots of surface and ground water in and around the site. How can this be addressed so we are not left with a superfund site?

I have a cabin downstream, and I get drinking water out of the river at times as I have a domestic water right out of the South Fork. How will I or other land owners along the river know if there was a spill and our water was contaminated? Do we just watch for a bunch of dead fish floating by? It seems like the spill probability numbers were skewed also with not counting all of the rivers that these toxic loads would be driven by, like the North Fork of the Payette, Little Salmon, Main Salmon, etc.

I'm concerned of the air emissions form the mine site and what they might be and how far they might travel. If I was traveling thru the mine site to recreate beyond what would my risk be and can that be mitigated?

The area the mine is in is a seismic zone, what are the chances of a catastrophic event like the tailings dam breaking due to a large earthquake and would floodwaters engulf my cabin many miles downstream? What about Yellow Pine which is much closer?

In closing I am not totally against mining. I know we have a need for these resources. I believe the Payette National Forest and Perpetua Resources have a obligation to the residents of Valley County and the fish and wildlife that inhabit this Wonderful landscape we call home to not impact the water, air, critters and quality of life that we currently enjoy. There should be no cost to great to protect the things we all enjoy and hold dear to our very existence. There should be no forest plan revisions, these will just be infringements on rules that are in place to protect the land , the fish and wildlife, and the people that call this place home. This mining operation if allowed to proceed should only happen with strict adherence to the rules that our local, state, and federal government have in place and currently I believe some have been bent and twisted to best accommodate the corporate interests of Perpetua and not the interests of those most affected by this project. Thank you for considering my thoughts and I would have written much more if I could only comprehend the complexity of this massive document and it's true impact on us all.