

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 1/9/2023 11:08:25 PM

First name: Kevin W.

Last name: McAlister

Organization:

Title:

Comments: Dear Forest Service,

I heard about Perpetua Resources (formerly Midas Gold) proposing a massive strip mine on the Payette National Forest, which is at the doorstep of the famed Frank Church-River of No Return Wilderness and in the headwaters of the East Fork of the South Fork of the Salmon River in Idaho. As someone who is concerned about the wilderness of that area, I ask that you deny Perpetua Resource the permit for its Stibnite Gold Project and that you require Perpetua to finish cleaning up the mine site. The Stibnite Gold Project would not only put the famed Frank Church-River of No Return Wilderness at risk, but it would also endanger the East Fork of the South Fork of the Salmon River and endangered species such as salmon, steelhead, and bull trout. The new proposed road would sit 100 feet from the wilderness boundary or could even enter the Wilderness, as the most logical location for the road seems to be an existing pack trail that dips into the Wilderness. Under the preferred alternative, road construction and mining operations would cause serious damage 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 wilderness evaluation erroneously downplays these impacts. The last thing Payette National Forest needs is more toxic mining and associated impacts. Again I suggest that you deny Perpetua Resources the permit for its project and instead have them finish cleaning up the mine site. Thank you.

Sincerely, Kevin W. McAlister.