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Organization:

Title:

Comments: Dear Forest Service,

I have lived in Idaho for almost 50 years and have spent as much time as I could on and around the Salmon River. The South Fork of the Salmon is a very special place and still provides a wild experience for many visitors. I ask that you protect the South Fork and its surroundings from the negative impacts from Perpetua's proposed open-pit mine in the headwaters. I have a list of concerns below:

What will be the negative impacts from expanding open pit mining in the Upper East Fork of the South Fork?

Transportation: How will the 3000 mining trucks per year carrying hazardous materials on Highway 55 impact other travelers? This highway is already almost unmanageable. And Idaho is just getting more crowded. Has the FS done a traffic study to determine the impacts? What towns will the trucks pass through? These are small, tourist-friendly towns. Which ones will the trucks pass through? The public has a right to know the details.

Arsenic dust: The mine will create arsenic dust that will impact the public along roadways, through the mine site, and to Thunder Mountain. How much dust and what is the concentrate of arsenic that the public will be exposed to?

Fish: How quickly will streams be restored and fish populations benefit? What will be the shorter term impacts to fish? Some of the restoration efforts, especially for bull trout, won't work fast enough to help the species. Also, climate change is likely to impact the South Fork as well, and the EIS should take that into account.

Thank you for this opportunity to comment. Please improve your plan to address these and other impacts. Or, better still, pick the No Action Alternative to protect this amazing resource.

Sincerely, Linn Kincannon