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Organization:

Title:

Comments: Hello, I appreciate the opportunity to make my comments on this, the Stibnite Gold Project, and trust they will be well considered.

I will request up front that the USFS choose the "No Action" option in its conclusion. The reasons and concerns are so many, I won't attempt to list them all here, but instead choose what's nearest and dearest to me, my family, and my community.

We are residents of Valley County these last 40 years, having moved away from a densely populated city to reap the benefits of living close to Idaho's (and our country's) largest wilderness in the lower 48 states. I seek to protect this rare and valuable land. To begin with, this mining project threatens a precious river corridor with its waste production and transportation of it & I can see nowhere in the SDEIS where this has been addressed. This threatens not only the river corridor it travels along (and the endangered fish and wildlife it supports), but also the stretches of road it will travel beyond the site itself that will directly impact our communities with massive loads (& number of loads) and potential for spills historically known to be inevitable. This in itself can't possibly be worth the enrichment of a few (meaning Perpetua & its investors). At worst, I again can see nowhere in the SDEIS that Perpetua will be held responsible for the aftermath of the inevitable accident; and, at best we (the local communities) are obviously left to tolerate the day to day heavy traffic they will incur, tearing into the fabric of our small, recreation-based community. And the overstated benefits claimed for our community? A pittance compared to the obvious infrastructure costs of changes to public services (are our local hospitals staffed and trained to handle the unique demands of toxin exposures of this kind?), impacts of massive equipment daily using our roads (who's paying for THAT?), the transient nature of the workers that typically are not invested in the quality of life of where they live, bringing increased drugs and alcohol with them to soothe the stressors of a life of mining. How are we to cope with all of that with the estimated \$300,000 property taxes Perpetua would pay? It's ludicrous.

So far I have commented mostly on the deleterious human impacts (a few of them). At least we have the ability to see what's coming and stand up for ourselves. The animals, fish, trees, and plant life have no such ability. The Forest Service's ultimate job at hand is to be their voice. And I will iterate the imminent & often permanent (per the SDEIS) danger to multiple listed species such as the Chinook Salmon, Steelhead, Bull Trout, Northern Idaho Ground Squirrel, Wolverine, Whitebark Pine. The SDEIS fails to show that the proposed Project can meet the strict standards under the ESA to protect them. Another red flag deserving the "No Action" option. Those are just the listed species and doesn't include the inherent effects also to the Mountain Goat, Migratory Birds, etc.

I can't comprehend allowing the financial interests of a few (and Perpetua is not even of this country!), that will scourge this part of what's left of our wild heritage in this unique area to supply others with jewelry (!) and investment opportunities. It's inconceivable in this day and age to place the gain of a few above those of our established human community and a diminishing, vulnerable wildlife environment. I call upon you all to do what's right. NO ACTION.

Thank you for listening,
Connie McClaran
McCall, Idaho