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First name: James

Last name: Valle

Organization:

Title:

Comments: Dear Forest Supervisor Jackson,

I am writing in opposition of the proposed Stibnite Gold Project.

I was born and raised in McCall, Idaho and spent much of my youth wandering the surrounding mountains. However, it wasn't until my 20's that I began to explore the Yellow Pine area. I immediately fell in love with the rugged landscape, the remote wilderness, the quiet, and of course, the beautiful Salmon River. The South Fork of the Salmon and East Fork of the South Fork Salmon River are two of the most beautiful drainages I have ever seen. They truly are a jewel in the Gem State.

As a lover of nature and an avid recreationist, I am deeply concerned Perpetua Resources proposed gold mine will destroy much of what makes this area magical. The number of vehicles introduced to the area will affect native land animal populations. Habitat will be destroyed and much of the hunting in the area will be adversely affected through migration and bedding changes. Protected species like the Wolverine will find themselves displaced as sensitive habitat is made unlivable.

The river itself will almost certainly face pollution. In 2017, Earth Works found 27 of 27 mines studied experienced at least one instance of spillage into surrounding waterways and found 20 of 27 mines failed to capture seepage from mines. If this were to happen on the East Fork Salmon, the results would be catastrophic to the quality of water and in turn for the habitat of wild Chinook Salmon, Steelhead, Bull Trout, and innumerable other aquatic animals. I feel the risks, which have historically shown simply to be the byproducts of mining operations, far outweigh the benefits.

I am fully aware Perpetua claims to be a restoration project and to have technology that will mitigate environmental disasters. This technology is unproven. It is the word of a for profit mining corporation against the health of pristine wilderness. I urge the Forest Service not to approve this mine. While gold may be valuable, clean water is and always will be far more precious. Certainly, the way climate change is affecting the world, clean water may soon be the most valuable asset a country can have.

Please take my words into consideration.

Thank you,

James