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Comments: Dear Forest Supervisor Jackson,

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Supplemental Draft Environmental Impact Statement (SDEIS) for the Stibnite Gold Project (SGP) proposed at the headwaters of the South Fork Salmon River watershed. This project presents unacceptable levels of risk to many aspects of habitat and recreation in that area.

Billions of dollars have been spent on Snake River habitat and ecological restoration projects and the proposed SGP presents a significant risk of losing all the progress made, both financially and ecologically. The proposed Stibnite mine 'restoration' project, as Perpetua prefers to call it, will result in the loss of 120 acres of active wetlands. This will undoubtedly have a negative impact on water quality and water temperature, further endangering Bull Trout and Chinook Salmon populations.

For the lifetime of the mine, the communities of Valley County will be at risk of potential hazardous material spills caused by the transport of hazardous materials to the mine site. At this time, there are no risk analyses on local communities if a hazardous spill were to occur. Not to mention, the potential exposure of a hazardous spill is much larger than the SDEIS portrays. This poses significant risk to the locals and tourists and must not be overlooked by the Forest Service.

All forms of recreation within the general area of the mine will be negatively impacted as well. Recreation traffic will undoubtedly be diverted to the South Salmon Road and Lick Creek Road as a result of road closures that are part of this proposed project. The analysis of the impacts on recreation has been arbitrarily limited to a 5-mile radius from major mine features, yet it is likely that the scars of this mine will be visible from high peaks in the Frank Church Wilderness, outside of the arbitrary 5-mile radius. The analysis does not include any discussion of the displaced traffic.

Finally, and likely most importantly, the SGP will directly violate the treaty-reserved rights of the Nez Perce and other indigenous peoples of Idaho. The SDEIS clearly states that "Adverse impacts to tribal rights and interests under either alternative, including preventing access to traditional lands, harming traditional fishing and hunting rights, impacting endangered salmon and concerns that it would harm the tribe's salmon restoration efforts."

For these reasons, I strongly urge the Forest Service to protect the Salmon River watershed and reject the proposed Stibnite mine plan.

Sincerely,
Margeaux Zwang