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Comments: Regarding the Stibnite Gold project, the only option I support, and I hope that the Payette National Forest will support. is the "No Action Alternative". I am very concerned about the negative impacts and the unforeseen effects that this large-scale open pit mine would have on the natural environment, climate, cultural heritage, and our local communities.

What I hear from experts is a lot of concern. There is concern about the knowns, even greater concern for all the unknowns and what ifs, and a disturbing concern for the lack and depth of study in many areas of the DEIS. Concerns ranging from fish passage and survival, water temperature, acid rock drainage, engineering, to omitting effects of climate change in water modeling data.

I live just outside of McCall, so I am also concerned with the countless negative impacts the SGP will pose on our communities; ranging from increased burden on local infrastructure including schools, water and sewer, and streets, to strains on local business who are short workers and workers who are short housing. Not to mention the ever-present risk of toxic spills on our local streets, roads, and water ways as thousands of truck loads per year of fuel, chemicals, and ore make their way through our communities to and from the mine site. As outlined by the Idaho Headwaters Economic Study Group, there is also potential threat to our local economy, which is booming.

As a backcountry pilot by profession, I routinely fly over the impact area of the proposed project. From a bird eye view, the visual impacts will be vast. Areas of the proposed Burnt Log Route that Perpetua has already taken the liberty to log along Meadow Creek Ridge are already visible soon after crossing the Lick Creek Range out of McCall. This same high broad swath of ridgeline stretches miles from South to North before turning East above the mine, is bordered by the Frank Church River of No Return Wilderness on one side and largely roadless National Forest land on the other. This area is a migration corridor for many species of game and non-game animals and serves as a buffer between the wilderness and the Johnson Creek Road; it would be bisected right down the middle by a new major roadway. In this area I've witnessed a wolverine ascending a high snowy slope, see the occasional big horn sheep, and watch for mountain goats dotting the steep slopes above Indian Creek. Flying over this same ridge line, it pains me to look North towards, where the old, but slowly healing mining scars from Stibnite inhabit the landscape; then envision the scars being re-opened, and what is now pristine land, being buried. Above Stibnite, Meadow Creek flows from the West then spirals up towards its name's sake ridge. It would be impounded by a 400 foot tail tailings dam, forever encasing the creek below an unsightly deep and toxic sludge, threatening the Salmon river system below in perpetua.

In short, Perpetua Resources can paint themselves as environmental stewards and pitch to locals, investors, and even the Forest Service that this project needs to happen to clean up and restore a legacy mining site. They can even try and convince congress that this mine is as much about mining a small amount of antimony in the name of strategic mineral independence for either green energy or war. But between the lines it is clearly about one thing, and one thing only: GOLD….. gold and a foreign company aiming to satisfy its investors at any cost. The United States Federal Government and the U.S. Taxpayers have been burned time and time again by these same promises. I ask the Payette National Forest Service to do all within their power to stop the Stibnite Gold Project from happening.

Tor Andersen