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Comments: I am writing to protest the proposed Stibnite Gold Project, to be sited at the doorstep of the Frank Church-River of No Return Wilderness and in the headwaters of the East Fork of the South Fork of the Salmon River in Idaho. We have so much knowledge about the immediate and long-term effects of open strip mines in precious watersheds and ecologically intact areas. This area needs to be protected from further toxic mining and associated impacts.

The proposal endangers wildlife in the Frank Church-River of No Return Wilderness, the watershed of the South Fork of the Salmon River, and endangered species such as salmon, steelhead, and bull trout.

Under the current preferred alternative, road construction and mining operations would impact the River of No Return Wilderness, specifically generating noise audible for a nearly 2-mile radius, causing wildlife disturbance and displacement, increasing access to and activity in what are now quiet and lightly-visited places in the Wilderness, and resulting in sediment pollution in streams within the Wilderness. The wilderness evaluation incorrectly downplays these impacts.

A proposed road would sit 100 feet from the wilderness boundary or could even enter the Wilderness, as the most logical location for the road seems to be an existing pack trail that dips into the Wilderness.

Rather than issuing a permit for Perpetua Resource's Stibnite Gold Project, the Forest Service needs put the health of the planet over profits. Please deny the permit and require Perpetua to finish cleaning up the existing mine site.