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Payette National Forest
500N Mission St
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Dear Forest Supervisor Jackson,

Thank you for this 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.

For the proposed project, I also share the concerns that you have received in comments provided by State & Federal Agencies, NGO's and other private citizens regarding the potential threat to: (1) Chinook salmon and bull trout native fish restoration; (2) wetland loss and damage from mine tailing storage; (3) long term water temperature increases to the fishery spawning habitat in the project area; (4) threat to local Native American interests and harm to treaty reserved rights; as well as the (5) potential synergistic impact of climate change on all of the above issues. I am also am concerned with the: (1) large disparity between the potential corporate and society benefits of the project as compared to these undeniable continued environmental and habitat risks of the project; as well as the (2) failure of Perpetua Resources (developer) proposal to look at the health and environmental impacts of the project outside of the immediate mine site area, particularly downstream.

As professional engineer for over 30 years in the energy industry, I am keenly aware of the constant need for development of new sources of both energy and raw materials for our society. As a result, there is constant tension between preserving wild places and the need to extract the necessary resources from many of those same places that feed our souls. In the proposed reopening and significant expansion of the Stibnite mine, the stated goal of the developer is restoration of the historical mining site as well as the extraction of both gold and antimony. To be clear, their primary objective is to recover gold for Perpetua's shareholders and that revenue will dwarf any revenue from the antimony, and they are justifying the project with claims of restoration of the existing mine site and the national strategic benefit of a domestic supply of antimony. Unfortunately, what typically occurs in these situations is a focus on profit to the shareholders and minimal attention to the resource and surrounding area's environmental health. Additionally, there is no legal requirement that the current developer take financial responsibility for the accompanying environmental impacts of their mining operations after they have made their profit and abandoned the site (courtesy of the Federal Mining Act of 1872). Both during the operational life of the proposed mine and following closure/abandonment there significant unmitigated environment risks that have not been addressed. Mining sites throughout the United States and the world have a long history of accidents, hazardous waste spills, etc. both within their facilities and surrounding communities. The proposed redevelopment site and downstream waterways have a tragic history of unmitigated environmental and fishery impacts that it is still struggling to recover from. Further development and the unavoidable unmitigated environmental risks are a poor choice for the limited benefit to our country and its citizens.

For years I have enjoyed paddling in the South Fork drainage, and I have many fond memories of both the multi-day section below the East Fork and the Main SF Confluence well as the numerous day boating opportunities in the SF drainage. I hope this outstanding opportunity continues to remain an option for other like-minded outdoorsmen and women in the future.

For the above reasons, I urge the Forest Service to protect the Salmon River watershed and reject the proposed

Stibnite mine plan.

Sincerely,