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First name: Shawn

Last name: Phillips

Organization:

Title:

Comments: Dear Forest Supervisor Jackson,

Thank you for taking the time to review public comments on the revisited Stibnite Mine proposal.

I write to oppose the mine in either its preferred or alternate plans, which I understand to merely relocate the access road a few miles further from the Frank Church Wilderness ... and not far enough to deter a fire started by mining activities, either from the Wilderness or from Pine and Featherville. Enough fires are started by sparks from cars, and a mining operation with its heavy equipment greatly increase that risk.

Above the increased risk of fire, which I know you to be better equipped to evaluate than myself ...

The Nez Perce will be blocked from traditional and treaty-guaranteed land, upon which they depend for sustenance and access to ceremonial ground. And yet, the Nez Perce have no recourse to protect their land in the face of the needs of the larger nation, no say in what occurs or does not occur there.

The land they would be left with after the mining project has run its course will be degraded. This impact will be felt beyond the tribe, to include recreationalists, anglers and hunters, and whitewater kayakers who are drawn to a uniquely wild landscape and river system. While not as important as sustenance for a people, future recreational income for Idaho and its people far outweigh the real, local economic benefits from a single mining operation.

And those impacts will continue to be felt downstream, threatening increasingly commercial waters ... yet Perpetua Resources only considers environmental impact in a discrete chunk around the footprint of their mine.

Again you are better equipped to understand real-world results, and I'm sure you also understand that small-percentage changes can send ecosystems past tipping points, which push recreation and commercial operations past tipping points.

But if Perpetua doesn't know how river systems distribute chemicals, they don't have any business running a mine in a vibrant and valuable river system ... and if they do understand but ignore, they're equally disqualified.

This proposal comes from a company who simply renamed itself to create distance from their original, shoddy and incomplete, proposal ... so these are not the people to be trusted as stewards of the land for future use by anybody, let alone the tribespeople who should be the first and last word on land that's already been granted to them.

It's like Perpetua treats this proposal like a high school senior just trying to get a 60% on their final exam ... because if they achieve the bare minimum then the professor is obligated to pass them.

And so the profit of a precious few threaten livelihoods and lifestyles of a great many.

For Perpetua Mines pleads that the U.S. needs antimony so urgently that red flag after red flag should be thrown aside. Yet antimony is not even commercially viable for them to mine here. Despite being the largest mineral deposit on the site, it would only account for 1/20th of the mine's profit.

What if you suggested to Perpetua that they could only extract the antimony from the site, and no other minerals

could be removed from the site ???!! How readily would Perpetua Mine pursue this great purpose without the gold profits?

Great purpose is not driving this effort, great profit is. And the existence of the antimony is little more than an excuse to gain access to land the company otherwise wouldn't be able to access.

The economics of extracting gold are driven by hedge funds representing dark money of all kinds, such as Saudi sovereign wealth funds. While you might be able to look at Perpetua's financing, you'd never get a look at the client list of any fund investing in gold extraction ... and that's the point of these operations. I am familiar with these arrangements based on conversations with people who run the hedge funds that finance gold extraction.

So this isn't even primarily an American company profiting, let alone an Idaho company. It's a group of the wealthiest foreign nationals driving the extraction of gold anywhere and everywhere, for their own gain.

And then what ... if in the future these materials are truly a critical resource worth their mining, we'll have already sold them down the river.

Please Forest Supervisor Jackson, don't be taken in by this winking hypocrisy, and please, feel confident in choosing the long view in your stewardship of our public lands.

Again, thank you for your time.

All best,?

Shawn Phillips