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Title:

Comments: I am an avid outdoor recreationist and recreate in the EFSF and SF area regularly year round. I also live on the Salmon River downstream of the mouth of the South Fork Salmon in a community that depends wholly on its clean water. I work as a steelhead guide and have built most of my life around the Salmon River because I have seen communities that live along polluted rivers and how hard it can be to survive without a clean source of water. As I think about the future of the west, I cant help but believe it will be the places with clean water that continue to support life.

Perpetua has painted a picture of the mine site as broken environment that needs fixing, and can only be fixed by a restoration effort by them. Having been in this area frequently, I want to stress that these claims are an inadequate description of the existing environment. I have caught fish in the EFSF, and have observed countless species of birds in a single outing, and have experienced indescribable joy from kayaking the river, etc.

Perpetua has also overstated the benefits of the project, by saying that the environment will be 'improved' by their restoration efforts. This is an overstatement because the amount of devastation that will occur by open pit mining will overshadow any restoration efforts for centuries. The benefit to surrounding communities has also been overstated by claiming the project will bring in jobs. While it may bring in some menial labor jobs that will support a few, the high paying career type positions are already filled by people that live in different areas. Furthermore Idaho tax payers will have to pay to maintain roads that see a massive increase in traffic and stress by high weight vehicles associated with the mine. Vehicles that are carrying hazardous materials, and have a high chance of driving into a river, whether it be the EFSF or another river in the state as most of our roads are river side. Perpetua has also emphasized that this project important for national security. While some antimony might be extracted, this at the bottom line is a gold mine. We dont need gold to support the basic necessities of life. And we do need clean water to survive. These are just some examples of why I do not support the Stibnite Gold Project.

The following are questions I have that the SDEIS does not seem to address:

1. How can we adequately protect endangered species such as Chinook Salmon and Bull Trout in this environment, while at the same time impairing it further through the action alternatives proposed by Perpetua?
2. How will habitat fragmentation as a result of the construction of the Burnt Log road impact sensitive species like wolverines, elk, wolves, and other megafauna?
3. Water temperature projections don't seem to account for increasing environmental temperatures due to climate change. How will regulation of water temperature change throughout the future to maintain suitable temperatures for fish?
4. How will the 200+ miles of Wild and Scenic river that exists downstream of the mine be impacted?
5. How can the future of water quality be guaranteed?
6. How does Perpetua plan to address treaty violations?
7. How will noise and air pollution impact sensitive resident and migratory bird species?
8. If an avalanche or earthquake destroys any of the tailings storage facilities, how will communities that live along the 700 miles of river to the ocean be impacted? How will oceanic species and coastal communities be impacted?

9. When this mine destroys the last remaining suitable habitat for Chinook Salmon and Bull Trout, what remaining habitat will the PNFS be able to point to as an option to save these species that millions of people depend on for survival?

I oppose this project in its entirety and believe it would be best to allow the Nez Perce to continue the restoration efforts they started before Midas forcibly stopped them from doing so.