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Comments: This is not a restoration project, nor are there too many clean mining projects. Mining companies cannot actively destroy the environment and have adequate environmental safety protections in place.

Reopening and expanding the Stibnite Mine would compromise the scenic value of this area and the enormity of this project threatens the greater ecosystem. I say no to this project!!!

First, moving fish!! The overall health of the fisheries is a stake. Barrier issues, water quality, temperature issues, degraded stream and lack of river access, and an extremely long timetable to diverting fish through a tunnel, loss of habitat that are unsuitable conditions for the native fish species! A 15-foot-wide tunnel route along the entire EFSFS river, expecting migrating salmon, steelhead and trout to navigate through this man-made concoction that has not been tested or proven to be effective. Really? Not only is a temporary tunnel alarming, but they are proposing that the tunnel remain for up to 18 years during mining operations. The proposed route into the Stibnite site (Burntlog Route) would also create a new road through a road-less area and cross streams that are designated critical habitat for ESA listed fish.

As a major tributary of the mighty Salmon River, the entire watershed is designated critical habitat for ESA listed Chinook Salmon, Steelhead, and Bull Trout. The area is recognized by the US Forest Service as having the most important remaining habitat for Summer Chinook Salmon in the Columbia River Basin. According to the Payette National Forest, "the fish were once the largest, most valuable segment of the world's largest runs of chinook salmon" USFS. Indigenous tribes of the region, including the Nez Perce, Shoshone Bannock, and Shoshone Paiute, thrived on the abundance brought by salmon for thousands of years. The Nez Perce Tribe has worked extensively to restore declining Chinook Salmon populations, and currently spend nearly \$2.8 million a year to protect salmon and habitat in the basin. (Nez Perce).

The plan also directly borders both the Frank Church Wilderness section of the Wild and Scenic Main Salmon River and is at the headwaters of the East Fork of the South Fork of the Salmon River - too close to precious areas. With a global track record as one of the most pollutive industries, mining inevitably has potential impacts on people, wildlife and water quality. Perpetua is proposing additional open pit mining, potentially impacting 27,000 acres of forest a severe manipulation to the landscape! It will reroute the several aspects of the headwaters, alter river beds and excavate 450 tons rock leaving tons of waste rock to dispose. A 400ft high tailings dam holding toxic sludge back - Meadow Creek Valley will be 100 percent reliant upon this immense amount of contaminated waste to hold.

Reopening and expanding the Stibnite Mine would compromise the scenic value of this area and the enormity of this project threatens the greater ecosystem. Project impacts include unearthing of unnecessary heavy metals; disruption of fish migration and spawning grounds; contamination of groundwater; and destruction of wild animal habitat. The project would have catastrophic repercussions for the South Fork of the Salmon River and downstream communities that depend on a healthy river system for vitality, and undermines the extensive, region-wide effort to recover endangered salmon and steelhead.

The scale of this proposed project on public lands is detrimental to the natural resources, recreation, wildlife, and water quality in this area.

This proposed mine threatens the natural amenities in which the Valley County economy and business are built around. The Valley County area is recreational mountain town with the local economy strengthened and supported by the outdoor recreation and amenities it offers: forests, lakes, rivers, fish and wildlife, and those living or visiting this area are drawn to this natural environment. A main source of income for the Valley County businesses is the visitor-recreation tourists.

Again, reopening and expanding the Stibnite Mine would compromise the scenic value of this area and the enormity of this project threatens the greater ecosystem. I say no to this project!!!