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Comments: As one who greatly values Wilderness as well as clean waters, I write out of deep concern that the Stibnite Gold Project poses a serious threat to the well-known Frank Church-River of No Return Wilderness, one of the wildest in the contiguous states, as well as at-risk fish species such as steelhead, bull trout and salmon in the East Fork of the South Fork of the Salmon River. In my view, more toxic-polluting mining is about the last thing this area needs, and the U.S. Forest Service should both reject the permit for Perpetua Resource's Stibnite Gold Project and require Perpetua to complete cleaning up its current and former mining sites.

As I understand your preferred alternative, if it is implemented road construction and mining activities will result in such unacceptable impacts to the River of No Return Wilderness as noise audible from a nearly 2-mile radius, wildlife disturbance and displacement, increased access to and activity in what are now quiet locations within in the Wilderness, and potentially toxic and sediment pollution in streams within the Wilderness. Yet your evaluation of Wilderness impacts improperly downplays these impacts and is thus inadequate.

Indeed, the new proposed road would at best sit 100 feet from the wilderness boundary but might actually enter the Wilderness, as the most logical location for the road appears to be a pack trail that crosses the Wilderness boundary. Either way, the ridgeline road will harm Wilderness qualities and the experience of visitors.

Further, I am aware the Nez Perce Tribe has been actively working to clean up the South Fork of the Salmon and has challenged this mining proposal. I believe the current administration has urged careful consideration of Native American views in federal decisions.

At the least, the Forest Service must redo the EIS to more fully and accurately assess the probable negative impacts on the Wilderness and its streams and wildlife and better reflect its obligation to protect those resources. Wilderness and biodiversity are more valuable than gold to many of us.

However, in my opinion, the best course of action now is for the Forest Service to reject the project, deny any permit, and insist that the company finish cleaning u its current/former mine site.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the critical proposal.