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Organization:

Title:

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To Whom It May Concern,

As a native to Idaho, I oppose the proposed Stibnite Gold Project. In the late 1979, I was privileged to raft the Middle Fork of the Salmon River through the then Frank Church River of No Return Wilderness Area. This protected area provides a pristine glimpse of a secluded habitat for wildlife, including rare and vulnerable species. There is no justification that warrants any operation, mining or otherwise, to jeopardize this incredible land and wildlife.

This Project will not provide an economic benefit to outweigh the devastation to this beautiful land. Additionally, I am concerned about the economic hit that will occur in Valley County and adjacent counties. This area's prosperity hinges on the existing, flourishing tourist and recreational economies.

For 40 years, people have worked to restore Meadow Creek and the Stibnite land desecrated by mining. The stibnite gold project proposes to remove critical habitat for our endangered Chinook Salmon, Steelhead and Bull Trout. Filling in Meadow Creek and diverting the East Fork SFSR, and risking mixing toxic chemicals with waters upstream of the Salmon River open the gate to the path of extinction. We cannot wait for water temperatures to "return to existing conditions over a period of approximately 100 years." (SDEIS, page ES-15)

Arsenic pollution to the air, water and wildlife throughout the Boise and Payette National Forests and the River of No Return Wilderness threatens the Life of Fish, Elk, Mule Deer, Canada Lynx, Wolverine, Monarch Butterfly, and Northern Idaho Ground Squirrel. They are vital to the Forest, and all but Elk and Mule Deer are endangered. What level of arsenic is intended along the public route through the mine site to Thunder Mountain?

The proposed plan does not explain what routes will be taken for the 3,000 loads/year of hazardous materials. Are truckloads intended to come through Boise, Eagle, Smiths Ferry and Cascade, or through Weiser and Council, or through Riggins, New Meadows and McCall? I live in Boise and do not want these trucks driving through the Treasure Valley. We already have poor air quality and excessive traffic, and adding large transport vehicles will make it worse.

This project is excessive and disrespects the agreements made in the Nez Perce Treaty of 1863, the Endangered Species Act and the Clean Water Act. I urge the Forest Service to deny Perpetua resources the right to mine this land and allow the restoration work to continue. I choose the No Action Alternative.

Sincerely,

Martha E. Gilgen