Data Submitted (UTC 11): 1/11/2023 12:59:39 AM
First name: Hillary
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Organization:
Title:
Comments: Dear US Forest Service Representatives,

I am writing you as a public comment regarding the Stibnite Gold Project EIS #50516. I attended the December 9th meeting in Boise and have an invested interest in the public land proposed to be utilized by Perpetua resources. A new mine is not the solution to restore this area. This project needs to be stopped

Firstly, the meetings scheduled over the holidays with no significant advertising did not provide ample opportunities for the public to comment on the use of their public lands. An obscure facebook page is not adequate notice to the public.

As an avid angler, I caught my first bull trout in Sugar Creek and the East fork of the South Fork of the Salmon river. The opportunities to experience these fish are becoming more and more limited as they are a threatened species that are dependent on cold water temperatures for survival. Wild and native trout in the United States are becoming scarce, and bull trout are a treasure to the state of Idaho with their limited range in the lower 48 states. These waters are also the headwaters of the Salmon river, threatening the health of all other downstream species.

After speaking with the fish biologist hired by Perpetua resources, the environmental impact statement was based on a literature review alone and not backed by solid research. Perpetua's plan for the gold mine will increase the water temperature, and will, in turn further threaten the survival of an already threatened species. In addition, no research has been completed to know if a fish tunnel with no natural light that has been proposed would even be utilized by the species in this water system. Boasting improved access to fish with no substantial research to validate the idea is a deception for the public whose land the mine is located on.

The plan will also close access for outdoor recreationists to the public land utilized by the mine for at least 15 years. With either proposed truck routes to the mine, the large machinery traffic will significantly increase directly impacting the serenity and the safety of recreationists utilizing their National Forest land.

The activity of mining despite the precautions will result in contamination of the land and water. Additionally, the natural risks of avalanches and landslides in this area will result in further contamination outside of the mining area due to vehicle accidents.

Not only will it impact the public, but also the terrestrial wildlife of the area. To my knowledge, the impact of noise pollution caused by the mining itself and caused by the vehicles traveling to and from the mine has not been evaluated. This should be particularly considered given the proximity of the mine to the Frank Church Wilderness.

The Stibnite Gold Project will result in irreversible harm to water quality, wildlife, public health, and a sustainable outdoor recreation-based economy and pollute the area for generations to come. Again, this project needs to be stopped.

Thank you for your time,

Hillary Greatting, MS, DVM, DACVIM (neurology), CCRT