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First name: Rachel
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Organization:
Title:
Comments: I am writing to comment NO / Object to the supplemental DEIS plan for Stibnite Mine.

As an active citizen, whitewater kayaker, outdoor educator, and recreational user of the area, I firmly believe that reopening of the Stibnite Mine for privatized mining interests would irrevocably devastate the ecological health in the headwaters of the South Salmon river watershed, Frank Church Wilderness Area, and the Payette and Boise National Forests for generations to come.

This massive scale open-pit mining that Perpetua Resources is proposing would have detrimental impacts to a critically important wilderness area of our country. The proposed size & scale of this project is nearly double the size of the footprint of the previous Stibnite mining area, grabbing at the surrounding public and tribal-reserved lands. The physical landscape of this area is not suitable in size or nature to safely sustain the scale of this project. As someone who frequents the East Fork South Fork Salmon and South Fork Salmon rivers several times each summer to enjoy the area's world class recreation, I have already witnessed how Perpetua's pre-mining "clean-up" efforts have negatively impacted the local area. The building and widening of roads along this narrow river corridor will not sustain the trucks needed to transport, as evidenced by the rock slides and runouts already occurring. Hazardous spills and sediment runoff into the river would be inevitable and all too frequent reality. The area will not sustain the influx of the proposed 500 workers that Perpetua hopes to hire. The quaint town of Yellow Pine, ID and the solitude of the Frank Church Wilderness Area will be lost to the disruptive noise, light, and air pollution associated with the mining site's operations.

If approved, the reopening of the Stibnite mine would cause destruction of the critical habitats for ESA-listed sensitive species, displace wildlife, and contaminate an entire river watershed with the millions of tons of toxic mine waste, heavy metals, and sediment. The health is essential for the restoration of sensitive species populations, such as Chinnook salmon, steelhead, and bull trout. Nearly 20 miles of the headwaters of East Fork South Fork would be backfilled and blocked to salmon populations, and in its place would be, an antiquated and likely to go unused, concrete fish passage tunnel. This would stifle the ongoing salmon restoration projects occurring for the foreseeable 15 years of the project. Several world-class rivers below the mining site are eligible for Wild and Scenic designation, including the South Fork Salmon, Main Salmon, and Lower Salmon, however their pristine nature would be lost and recreational opportunities would be threatened.

I stand in solidarity with the Nez Perce Tribe and the other indigenous communities of this region who have deep cultural ties to these lands, whose ancestors have cared for this area for many generations, and depend on this access to treaty-reserved resources. The location of the proposed reopening of the Stibnite Mine would block access to the reserved resources to the Nez Perce Tribe for a minimum of 20 years. By denying this access, the National Forest service would be violating their legal obligation to ensure Nez Perce people can exercise treaty rights to hunt, fish, gather and practice traditional religious and cultural ceremonies within the 14,221 acre boundary.

The National Forest Service mission is to sustain the health, diversity, and productivity of the Nation's forests and grasslands to meet the needs of present and future generations. Reopening the Stibnite mine to privatized mining interests would be a direct violation of this commitment to protect our forests, rivers, and critical ecosystems therein. Reopening would be a dis-service to the millions of people (indigenous, local, recreational users alike) and abundance of wildlife who rely on this clean, healthy, and intact watershed and wilderness area. This area offers a natural wealth of ecological, cultural, and recreational resources that would be lost for the short term, monetary gain of few Foreign stakeholders. Even with reclamation efforts, the scars will be evident for generations to come. The proposed reclamation efforts from Perpetua simply won't be enough to recover these

natural areas, nor do I believe they will stick around long enough to uphold this end of the bargain, leaving the remnants of an even larger open-pit mine. I beg and I hope that the National Forest Service and the federal government will uphold their commitment to protect the wilderness areas and headwaters of the East Fork South Fork Salmon, South Fork Salmon, Frank Church Wilderness area, Nez Perce Tribal lands, Payette National Forest, Boise National Forest, and all the integrated ecosystems that come from and depend on this watershed. Objecting the reopening & expansion of the Stibnite mine is CRITICAL to to the health of these sensitive ecosystems and the opportunities for public user interests for generations to come.