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First name: Laurel

Last name: Faurot

Organization:

Title:

Comments: To whom it may concern,

I was raised in McCall, ID by 2 fish biologists. We spent our free time exploring the rivers and mountains in the South Fork Salmon River drainage. I studied forestry in undergrad (and got a Wilderness Studies minor), then began my own career as a fish biologist. I have worked all along the Salmon River and its tributaries, most recently completing a Masters degree studying stream ecology in the South Fork Salmons' adjacent watershed, Big Creek. Through my education and work as a fisheries professional, I have learned that native and wild fish communities thrive when they have access to large networks of complex and connected rivers that are not impeded by anthropogenic influence. The South Fork Salmon is one such river network, and a major gold mine would undermine this.

The endangered and sensitive fish species present in the East Fork of the South Fork of the Salmon cannot sustain the projected impacts of this project. Perpetua admits that their work will raise stream temperatures up to 6.8 degrees Celsius, decrease quantity and quality of habitat, will rely on a tunnel to maintain connectivity throughout the river network, and will likely input hazardous chemicals from spills during transport. These actions are all unacceptable and will impede the recovery of Chinook salmon, steelhead, and bull trout.

Along with the federal agencies that are mandated to do this, the general public needs to work towards the recovery of the remnants of our fish populations. Stibnite mine works in direct opposition of this recovery.

Outside of my career, I am an avid outdoorsman and spend LOTS of time in the Frank Church as well as other Wilderness areas. Wilderness and roadless areas have always been important to me and to the community of McCall. A large gold mine on the edge of the Frank Church that includes the Burntlog Road along the edge of the Wilderness would damage this Wilderness character.

I strongly oppose the Stibnite Gold Project.