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Comments: Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the SDEIS and Stibnite project as a whole. My name is Patrick Baird, I am a public high school science teacher and multi-day raft trip guide living in northeastern Oregon. I do not support the approval of the SDEIS. I have been lucky enough to spend a fair amount of time around Yellow Pine, the EFSF of the Salmon, and the South Fork. Whitewater kayaking has been my passion for eleven years and has taken me all over the pacific northwest and as far away as Chile and Ecuador. However, the highlights of my career in the sport include 4 trips down the unrivaled South Fork of the Salmon. To say this river and surrounding canyon and wilderness offer world-class beauty and recreation is true, but it is also a gross understatement. The geology and ecology of this region of Idaho is beautiful and is a prime example of what Theodore Roosevelt and Gifford Pinchot set out to conserve for future generations when they built the Forest Service. The recreational value of the area is outweighed only by its cultural significance to the Nez Perce and the ecological importance to Chinook salmon and related species of fish and wildlife. Any of the values, alone, are more precious than gold or antimony. Together, there is no question that the project is not worth the environmental risks associated with this style of mining.

Chinook, like all other anadromous salmonids of the PNW, stand on the brink of ecological collapse and the South Fork and EFSF offer both a cautionary history and a glimmer of optimism for the future of these incredible creatures. The South Fork once boasted the strongest Chinook run in the Columbia watershed but their population was decimated by habitat degradation in the mid 20th century due to unsustainable forestry practices. While Chinook have not made a full resurgence into this part of Idaho, they have also not gone extinct, maintaining a toe hold in these drainages. However, climate change, dams, and other environmental factors make the road to recovery uncertain for the Chinook. The project, according to the SDEIS, would affect Chinook reproductivity during "operations" due to stream flow reductions and a host of mining and transport related activities (ES-19). This vaguely defined reduction in productivity, is simply a luxury not afforded by this endangered species. Perpetua claims that these effects would be temporary and once reclamation takes place, the habitat would return to suitable conditions. So what happens when they find more gold or antimony like they have stated they hope to? The salmon and steelhead of the pacific northwest do not have the time to wait for Perpetua to get around to doing the right thing. Reclamation is years away and action must be taken right now to conserve these species or we risk watching them vanish from the face of the planet. I urge you to make the right decision and choose the "No Action Alternative" in reference to the SDEIS. Thanks again for the opportunity and your time. Cheers.