

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 1/11/2023 6:12:56 AM

First name: Eileen

Last name: Wendell

Organization:

Title:

Comments: Dear Forest Service Supervisor,

Thank you for allowing public comment on this project, it is a big development that would have many adverse consequences for some of Idaho's most pristine wilderness. I am asking that the Forest Service stop the Perpetua Resources project. The Stibnite Gold Project would pose direct environmental impacts that contradict current conservation efforts and recreational use. Not only will the land that the mine is on be affected, but there will also be downstream effects as well.

Recently, there has been monumental efforts for fish conservation, especially in Idaho. Groups have been working tirelessly to breach the lower four dams on the Snake to protect salmon populations across the Pacific Northwest. This project is a step in the wrong direction, the complete opposite direction. The land of the Stibnite Project imposes on a designated critical habitat for ESA - listed chinook, steelhead, bulltrout, and westslope cutthroats. Chinook will be particularly at risk due to the predicted temperature rises in the river, not to mention their spawning grounds would be upstream of the mine, meaning the fish would have to be passed through an untested, mile-long fish tunnel, likely to deter the chinook from migrating back up the South Fork Salmon. The biggest concern would be the consequences of increased changing conditions for these fish populations.

Another consideration is the location of the mine in the Frank Church wilderness. The project's land is on traditional lands of the Nez Pearce, Shoshone-Bannock, and Shoshone-Paiute Tribes, the development would violate treaty rights to hunting and fishing grounds. Hazardous spills from the road, noise levels from the operation, wildlife displacement, as well as disturbance to natural dark skies will all be negative consequences to the Frank Church Wilderness

Recreational use would be completely revoked within the operational boundary, and the mine imposes threats downstream, effecting world class whitewater. 14,000 acres of hunting, fishing, whitewater paddling, hiking, camping, and backcountry skiing would be inaccessible until after reclamation efforts which could be upward of twenty years.

The Forest Service has a responsibility to protect the natural resources on federal land, and if this project is approved, it would be a direct violation of that. This project goes against the stewardship of this beautiful area and would have serious, long term consequences.

For these reasons, I am asking the Forest Service to stop the Stibnite Gold Project and protect our precious environment and this incredible watershed.