Data Submitted (UTC 11): 9/9/2024 3:54:34 PM

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Organization:

Title:

Comments: I am very concerned about the prospect of reopening the Stibnite Gold mine. We've seen mining play out enough times in the past to know what will happen, and this area is too precious to too many people and wildlife to risk. Mining has a boom/bust economic cycle, and Perpetua is of course going to say that they have plans to clean up and restore, but once the money is gone Perpetua will be gone and Idaho and our public land will be all the poorer for it. The last time this area was mined it was left in disarray with serious pollution in the water, why do we think that Perpetua would be any different? This area is critical salmon habitat, an incredible fish that is already under tremendous pressure with the number of challenges it has to overcome: dams, warming water, changing ocean currents. Salmon are on the brink of extinction and we don't need to add polluted waters and mining operations to their home and spawning habitat as another hurdle for this keystone species. Furthermore, this area as it currently is draws far greater economic potential than any mine ever could. Idaho's greatest resource is our incredible public land, people travel from around the world to raft through the Frank Church on the Middle Fork Salmon and the Main Salmon, why should the East Fork South Fork or the South Fork Salmon be any different? Every spring both rivers are visited by some of the best white water kayakers in the world, who rely on local small businesses for shuttles and food for their trips. It's an amazing resource for fisherman, hikers, and anyone who loves to get out for a weekend of camping. The town of Yellowpine has an incredible harmonica festival, which brings more people into this beautiful area every year. People know and love this area, just as it is, and we can't risk disrupting the incredible ecological and recreational resource so an extractive corporation can make a guick buck. This land belongs to all of us, please don't choose profit of the few over the benefit and enjoyment of the many many Idahoans that treasure this area; the recreation lovers from around the world who visit Idaho just to access our unmarred public land; the Tribes, which have serious concerns, not to mention this proposal directly violates their treaties; and the millions of plants and animals species for which the proposed site is home and critical habitat that we encroach on more and more everyday.