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First name: Katie

Last name: Veteto

Organization:

Title:

Comments: Hello,

My name is Katie Veteto, I'm a Montana Resident and have worked and recreated in Idaho since 2017. I work as a seasonal river guide on the Middle fork and the Main fork of the Salmon River. I want to thank the Forest Service for accepting public comment on the approval of the Stibnite mine. Public input is a necessary component of our society and facilitating this process is important. I put my trust in the forest service that the voices of this community will be heard and honored.

I am writing to express deep concern over the draft approval of the Stibnite Mine on the East fork of the South fork of the Salmon River. I do not believe that Perpetua will treat the river, the fish, the human health and the land properly and ethically. Considering they are currently embroiled in legal battles about air quality permits and water rights, my distrust is well placed.

I am concerned about the historically evident risks of gold mines, particularly in an area that is crucial to the health and survival of endangered salmon and steelhead species. Gold mines pose risks of heavy metal poisoning of the surrounding waterways, air pollution, disturbing riparian habitat and overall ecosystem degradation. The approval of Stibnite's mine has incredible consequences on this area in Idaho. Consequences that will domino downstream and impact the main salmon, lower salmon, snake river and the Columbia river.

I urge the Forest Service to listen to the voices of this community in not approving the Stibnite mine.

Thank you for your time,

Katie