Data Submitted (UTC 11): 10/10/2024 8:57:59 PM
First name: Randall
Last name: Hermann
Organization:
Title:
Comments: Once again the inexorable process of powerful private and some government... particularly DOD... interests overwhelm the enduring public interests in an already depreciated South Salmon wilderness watershed. The EIA and reclamation conditions and Forest Service permitting are delusional.

For 30 years I have regularly enjoyed the Yellow Pine wilderness area, principally kayaking the drainages of the South Salmon. often flying in or out. The impacts of past mining in Stibnite are tragically conspicuous. Now the Forest Service is permitting a greatly expanded footprint and exponentially greater toxic holding area. The short term interests of extractors, in this case with support of federal and local governments, are tragically biased to economics over the enduring values in wilderness preservation. The excavation, chemical extraction and toxic waste, power lines, roads and trucking will dwarf the legacy of past Stibnite mining. If indeed this is about the need for a strategic mineral, antimony, not gold, then there should be a comprehensive evaluation of all its potential extraction sites and sources, not biased to one that promotes Perpetua's and its advocate's interests. I can find no evidence that DOD has done this assessment and it loaded the process to Forest Service approval.

Though mining minerals is essential, its impacts in ravaging and poisoning the environment are overwhelmingly established. It needs to be controlled with public environmental interests prevailing other all other interests. It is delusional to imagine the absence of these impacts particularly with the legacy of failed, unenforced permitting obligations of mining operations, and changing government regimes. In the labyrinth of Forest Service permitting, this appears to be only the first step in the pursuit of a vastly greater project and impacts once the trajectory is established moving beyond this generation of advocates for environmental values.