Data Submitted (UTC 11): 10/21/2024 2:58:16 AM
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Organization:
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Comments: As stated in my Comment Letter 17161 (1/8/2023), "The negative impacts on our community, economy, public lands and natural resources greatly outweigh any supposed benefits [of this project]. I am also an avid user of our public lands and am concerned by the degree to which this project plans to exploit them. The SDEIS inadequately addresses the longstanding impacts this project would have on our recreation areas and natural resources. For example, there are many unanswered questions around air quality. The Forest Service should be provided with better data on the project's arsenic emissions from Perpetua and should require air quality monitoring in the project area, including the access road to Thunder Mountain area."

In response to my comment, the FEIS at Appendix B-747 responds "No further response required. General in nature or position statement. It is acknowledged and understood that concerns regarding potential long-term environmental impacts, ecological integrity, and the well-being of potentially affected communities are valid and important to consider. During the decision-making process, the Forest Service will seek to identify the best possible balance between environmental protection, community needs, and sustainable forest management." This is inadequate because the Forest Service FEIS did not adequately respond to my comment and there are still great threats to our public lands and clean air and water from this project.

The remedy for this violation is for the Forest Service to withdraw the FEIS and DROD and not issue any decision or take any action based on the inadequate FEIS. The Forest Service must not take any action until a revised FEIS and revised DROD demonstrate full compliance with each and every law, regulation, policy, Treaty, and requirement noted. The Regional Forester must withdraw the FEIS and DROD with instructions to the Payette National Forest to correct all errors noted before approving or taking any actions.