

10/28/2020

Hello USFS Employees and regional representatives,

My name is Dave Hecker and I write in opposition of the proposed gold mine atop the South Fork of the Salmon River.

I annually benefit, use, and appreciate the South Fork of the Salmon River in its intact and undisturbed current state. This region of Idaho is not somewhere we can allow an enormous watershed altering development to occur.

If this development is approved and allowed to forever tarnish the Salmon River's pristine health and natural state, it will be because the greater public did not know about this proposal. Idahoans collectively, nor any other than the few beneficiaries condone this proposed mine.

I am a born and raised Idahoan. I have had the privilege to travel and live throughout most of the West. The West as an idea still carries meaning. The existence of wild, undisturbed landscapes is engrained in the identity and value of the West. At this point in existence, without Idaho's few untrammelled landscapes, fisheries, and natural systems; the West as implied by the name would largely be a state of the past.

The residents in central Idaho rely on the continuance of a healthy and undisturbed Salmon River watershed. Small businesses throughout the region benefit from the pristine conditions and revenue generated by locals and people from around the world to see, experience and benefit from the undisturbed wild places in Idaho.

I am an avid watersports and outdoor enthusiast. Like the tens of thousands of people who seek permits to access the water adjacent to and below this proposed mine location, I annually strive to return to enjoy the best week or two of the year.

We cannot allow the salmon, steelhead and vast natural resources of this region to be a story of the past. As we have seen; development of dams and mines are a slippery slope for the existence of anadromous fish and regional integrity. We already have too few remaining salmonids due to prior man-made disturbances.

I strongly urge and encourage you as land management officials to kindly and logically decline this mine proposal.

Thank you,

Dave Hecker