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Title:

Comments: I am alarmed by the plans being submitted by the Stibnite Gold project.

While in high school in the mid-70s and enjoy going to the Warm Lake area where at our cross-country running camp we ran along the South Fork of the Salmon River. It is spectacular country boasting a spectacular fork of a river attached to the most impressive undammed river system in the U.S. that is vital to Idaho.

Since high school I have fished, hiked and floated on or around the Salmon River and I am shocked that it is threatened by this gold mine. It is too valuable of an asset to have it undergo the risks posed by the gold mine.

To fill the surrounding valleys with mine waste and tailings poses great environmental risk, that will undo the millions of dollars of taxpayer-funded restoration work in the area. And if this mine is approved and they actually do the restoration work they promise, then can another mining company come in again and undo that restoration work. Fill the area with mine waste is an insult.

I've caught steelhead, cutthroat and rainbow trout on the main Salmon and several of its tributaries. Great efforts have been made in Idaho to protect critical spawning habitat for threatened and endangered fish, that also provide a boost to the economy. This project proposes burying over a mile of spawning habitat under hundreds of feet of mining waste and tailings. What sense does this make?

The U.S. Forest Service should be wary of this project and take every step it can to prevent contamination from acid and heavy metals in the drainage that have devastated other fisheries. This project should not proceed if it threatens the fisheries in the S.F. Salmon.

Please protect this area of the S.F. Salmon and reject this plan.