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Organization:

Title:

Comments: To whomever this may concern,

The South Fork of the Salmon river is a sacred place that has much more ecological and spiritual value than any open pit could ever provide. There is no amount of money that could convince me otherwise. I am a student at the University of Idaho studying Wildlife Resources. One of the main reasons why I have chosen this career path is because of my love for wildlife and Idaho. The South Fork of the Salmon river is a place that I grew up going to. It is one of the places where I discovered this passion of mine, and I think it would be a tragedy if it was taken away. This river could spark passion in many generations to come if we choose to preserve it. The value that this river will give us through ecological and spiritual value outweighs any amount of money that a stupid open pit mine could give us. Not to mention that that money won't even be going back into the community. It will be going to the Canadian company that wants to do this.

Now let's talk about the immense amount of ecological damage this would cause. Wildlife and Fisheries biologists have been FIGHTING to preserve landscapes like these to help improve the declining populations of the Chinook Salmon, Steelhead, and Bull Trout. All who are native to Idaho. How many papers do we have to publish to get it through your tiny little brains that an act like this would be DEVESTATING to these populations? These fish are not the only ones that would be affected. Any deer, salamander, insect, bird, the list could go on forever, that relies on this river for a water source is going to struggle.

Now let's say that you don't care about the ecological or spiritual value of this river at all. I would certainly hope that you at least have the decency to care about the health of the humans that WILL be affected if this mine is put into place. Open pit mines create a toxic sludge that has potential to get into the ground water. If it does get into the ground water, then the entire community that relies on that for their everyday water source will have to find a new one. That is no easy task. If you don't believe me that this mine will have a detrimental effect on the community around it then take a look at Coeur D'Alene lake. Do some research and inform yourself on the mass amounts of heavy metals that sit in the bottom of that lake due to the open pit mines that surround it.

Please make the right decision and save this river,