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Organization:

Title:

Comments: I am writing in opposition to the mining corporations who propose to open-pit gold mines in the South Fork of the Salmon River.

The Salmon River is at the heart of Idaho's river system in the central part of the state. The river is a beautiful free-flowing area that is loved by many, myself included. Numerous outdoor activities take place on this river to include kayakers, rafters, and hikers. Idaho residents also come to this beautiful part of Idaho to camp, fish, and take in the scenery. The mining operation will ruin the waters of this beloved river which in turn will affect the neighboring cities and habitats.

The Salmon River provides a habitat to not only the surrounding wildlife, but endangered fish as well. Threatened salmon, steelhead, and bull trout reside in this river as well as other sensitive species. By producing a mine at the head of the South Fork, the habitat will suffer, and the river will be irreversibly damaged from the heavy metals spewing into the waters from the potential mine. The mine that was in place on the South Fork in the 1800s had already caused damage and paid \$13 million in restoration to fix the damage that had been done. It makes no sense to reverse all of that work and make it worse in the future.

Citizens of the US need to take a look around at the poor state of the world. A current example is the wildfires in the Western United States. 2020 is one of the worst years on records for wildfires and this is due to the effects of climate change. The temperature is rising which makes for hotter fires and drier trees - both of which contribute to deadly wildfires. The mining operations will only contribute to the climate change crisis. Like I said before, open-pit mining will produce heavy metals such as arsenic, mercury, and antimony that can deposit directly into the South Fork of the Salmon river. This will reduce the water quality and affect the environment catastrophically. A mining operation is not worth putting this beautiful piece of land in jeopardy and ruining a river of recreation and a home for the wildlife it houses.

Please take what I have written into consideration to your decision. Thank you.