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First name: Benjamin

Last name: Stookesberry

Organization:

Title:

Comments: I am writing as a person that not only values the one of a kind whitewater rivers in Idaho, but also as a small business owner that relies upon undiminished public lands and their rivers to promote the burgeoning outdoor recreation/ whitewater paddling industry for my livelihood. But more than that I have come to love and cherish the South Fork Salmon River in Idaho for its unmatched wilderness experience. Since my first descent of the river in 2017 with a group of Idaho locals; I have made it a point to return to the river every year since then because of the river's pristine water quality, incredible ecology, and unmatched whitewater recreation. Of course it is much less crowded than the more famous and more regulated MF Salmon and Main Salmon sections of the river, but is also more vulnerable than those sections because of a lack of the protection (Wild and Scenic) that protects those other rivers. The fact that the South Salmon River has already been deemed "suitable" by the Forest Service for Wild and Scenic Designation by Congress is all the more reason to carefully consider any proposed impacts to the river and its tributaries. That said I am not a person categorically opposed to resource extractive industries on public land. But those industries; whether they be timber harvesting, mining, or commercial recreation; must be sustainable in order to maintain the one of a kind value of our public land and uphold "The Land of Many Uses" ethos that is explicitly spelled out in the Boise and Payette National Forest management plans. Based on the DEIS and my desire to see the South Salmon River protected from the numerous adverse and long-term impacts of the proposed "open pit" Cyanide Leach Mine as presented in Alternatives 1 - 4 to the water quality, ecology, and the recreational experiences they create; I support Alternative 5, the No Action Alternative outlined in the Stibnite Gold Project's Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

The rivers of the South Fork Salmon watershed contain world class whitewater that paddlers from across the country and around the world travel to Idaho to visit in numbers that increase every year for an experience that would be harmed if any of the active Alternatives 1 - 4 are approved based on the DEIS's stated potential impacts on water quality and river ecology. All 4 of the "active" Alternatives contain 3 open pits and a giant tailing storage facility that will not only replace a previous mine footprint, but more than double the size of the existing impacted area replacing pristine East Fork South Salmon headwater with toxic mine tailings. According to the DEIS this greatly expanded mine's runoff from rain and snowmelt will have to be monitored and treated for "as long as necessary," which is vague at best and seems to indicate the lack of a plan and amount of money necessary to protect the greater South Salmon river system from harm of the indefinite future storage of mine waste on site. There are still many other unanswered questions about the Toxic pollutants that will be trucked in and then stored on site which is located at the headwaters of not only the South Salmon, but the Salmon, Snake, and Columbia Rivers downstream of the project. Cyanide Leach mining has been banned here in Montana and other places across the country and around the world because of concerns about long term negative impacts to the surrounding environment no matter the mitigation. In this case with real questions about the efficacy of the proposed Single Layer Liners that are known to tear. Add to this the lack of a mitigation plan for trucking cyanide in along SFS, Burntlog Creek, and Johnson Creek and we have a incomplete DEIS that guarantees damage to the publicly owned project area and does little to guarantee the safety of the river, ecology, and millions of people that live downstream.

In fact the DEIS clearly states that all of the alternatives presented, apart from Alternative 5, would adversely affect federally listed endangered Chinook Salmon, their habitat, and the watershed's water quality and quantity. This without even considering the potential impacts of climate change. This not to mention the other endemic species that thrive in the South Salmon River drainage including record Bull Trout and Steelhead that the DEIS

also identifies as being negatively impacted by Alternatives 1 - 4 in addition to a West slope Cut Throat trout that are also suspected to be harmed. This in and of itself means that the other folks in the river, i.e. the recreationalists that represent one of the largest economies in Idaho will also be adversely impacted but this is also not discussed in depth in the DEIS.

It is incredibly important to me personally that the Forest Service protect the outstanding water quality of this major tributary to the Wild and Scenic Salmon River, as this river system is vitally important for native and endangered fish, outdoor recreation, and the economic vitality of the local communities that surround it. Moving forward with this project as defined in Alternatives 1-4 would not only adversely impact my personal enjoyment of this public resource through whitewater paddling, camping and fishing, it would negatively impact all of the people of Idaho who rely on the hundreds of thousands of visitors each year to our National Forests.

The South Fork Salmon River is finally healing from the scars of past mining activity, and the impacts of this proposed greatly expanded mining activity represents an unacceptable risk to this watershed, the people of Idaho, the public land owners of the United States, and concerned parties around the world. Thank you for your consideration.

ATTACHMENT: Photograph of Whitewater boater

ATTACHMENT: Photograph of persons looking into a river drainage