Data Submitted (UTC 11): 10/28/2020 6:00:00 AM
First name: Aaron
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Organization:
Title:
Comments: Hello, thank you for providing the opportunity to comment. The South Fork of the Salmon is a special place for me and my family. Since I first kayaked the river in 1992, I have returned many times to enjoy its amazing whitewater and scenery. As a family we love to float the Main Salmon and the confluence of the two rivers is also a special place that we enjoy spending time at. While as an adult I enjoy the water on the surface, as a young kid growing up in the Northwest in the 70s, I have fond memories of my dad and granddad salmon fishing off the mouth of the Columbia and thinking of the fish that may have swam all the way from the mountains of Idaho. I have read that of all of the tributaries of the Columbia the South Fork of the Salmon had once been the most prolific Salmon spawning area, to think of how we have inadvertently harmed this is a true tragedy and I hope this river will be managed to try to restore the salmon fishery and allowing mining that will further degrade the river is NOT an appropriate way to achieve this goal.

Furthermore, as a regular river runner on the South Fork of the Salmon, I literally have my head under water and I appreciate the cleanliness of the South Fork. As a headwaters stream, water quality is of the utmost importance and management of this resource must ensure that the water is maintained at the highest quality. Here again, allowing mining and the environmental degradation that it brings is NOT an appropriate use for this area that is an international treasure as a clean and free flowing river.

Please do not allow the Stibnite Gold Project to go forward. Gold mining had its era in the mountains of Idaho and there still may be a few places where on some scale it is still appropriate. The headwaters of the South Fork of the Salmon are not an appropriate place and there are much higher and better uses as a public recreational resource than enriching one company and its investors. I appreciate being allowed to participate in this process and hope that the Forest Service will work to cherish the values of the South Fork of the Salmon and not let it be ruined. Thanks for reading this.

ATTACHMENT: Photograph of a kayaker, "Devils wall"

ATTACHMENT: Salmon fishing in the 1970s undisclosed location