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First name: Idaho Rivers United

Last name: Idaho Rivers United

Organization: Idaho Rivers United

Title:

Comments: Form Letter #1:

RE: We need your leadership to protect the South Fork of the Salmon River!

Dear Ms. Jackson,

My business, _____, supports and depends upon access to public lands and healthy rivers. The Stibnite Gold Project poses a direct threat to these Idaho resources. The South Fork Salmon River watershed must be protected from Midas Gold Corporation's reckless proposal. The Draft Environmental Impact Statement is missing key analysis of both the environmental impacts of the project, and the harmful effect upon the outstanding outdoor recreation opportunities in the area. Idaho's real booming industry is outdoor recreation. Access to our public lands, clean water, and rivers full of healthy fish generates far greater commerce for our local Idaho economy than the short term boom and bust cycle offered by a Canadian mining corporation.

The Forest Service must provide a supplemental Draft Environmental Impact Statement to address these issues, and extend the public comment period to 120 days to provide sufficient opportunity for public involvement.

We are part of a larger group of businesses who want to protect our rivers, who want to protect salmon's natural habitat, who want to promote recreational use on Idaho's rivers and public lands, who want to protect our small communities downstream the Stibnite mine, who support economic growth through outdoor recreation and want to stop Midas Gold from putting this all at risk.

The Stibnite Gold Project will negatively impact public access to public land and rivers, water quality, ESA listed fish prized by anglers, and diminish the recreational experience. These issues will directly affect Idaho's outdoor industry, and the many local businesses reliant upon this growing sector

Outdoor Recreation's Economic Significance in Idaho:

The most recent report from the Outdoor Industry Association found that in Idaho, outdoor recreation generates the following for Idaho's economy:

\$7.8 billion annually in consumer spending

78,000 direct jobs

\$2.3 billion in wages and salaries

\$447 million in state and local tax revenue.

79% of Idahoans participate in outdoor recreation each year

The South Fork Salmon River, and the Wild and Scenic Main Salmon River downstream (where visitors spend \$13.5 million annually in the local area according to the USFS}}, are irreplaceable assets to this booming industry. It would be a shame to trade this for the short boom and bust of a gold mine that will cause irreparable harm to fish, wildlife, water quality, and public land.

Form Letter #2

RE: We need your leadership to protect the South Fork of the Salmon River!

Dear Ms. Jackson,

As a stakeholder passionate about our lands, rivers, and the species dependent

upon them, I urge you to take a closer look at the proposed Stibnite Gold Project.

The DEIS is lacking critical analysis and sufficient alternatives for the public to weigh in, and the Forest Service must submit a supplemental EIS to address these issues. I also urge you to support Alternative 5: the No Action Alternative. Idaho rivers and our outdoor recreation economy are worth far more than gold!

The Stibnite Gold Project, and all Action Alternatives in the DEIS, would cause undue harm to ESA listed fish, the irreplaceable recreational values of the region, and indigenous resources.

The East Fork/South Fork of the Salmon River provides critical habitat for 3 Endangered Species Act listed fish species: chinook salmon, steelhead, and bull trout.

According to the USFS website, the South Fork of the Salmon is designated as critical chinook salmon habitat. "Within critical habitat, an agency must avoid actions that destroy or adversely modify that critical habitat."

The Stibnite Gold Project would significantly modify this critical habitat for chinook (and steelhead and bull trout). According to Alternative 2 (Midas Gold's proposal) of the DEIS, this project would destroy 20.8% of chinook salmon critical habitat and 27.5% of bull trout critical habitat in the analysis area. These are unacceptable losses for these already endangered fish and I urge you to protect them. All Action Alternatives in the DEIS would destroy and adversely modify the critical habitat of chinook salmon, steelhead, and bull trout.

The impacts of the Stibnite Gold Project would extend beyond fish, however. The looming risks of large scale mining include acid mine drainage, tailings dams failures, and cyanide spills. Possibilities of contamination from mining activities, which will create 446 million tons of potential acid generating and/or metal leaching materials and 161,095 sq. meters of open pit walls is too risky. Additionally, mine access roads -would cross 71 different streams, exposing each stream to the risk of hazardous material spills and increased sedimentation.

The South Fork Salmon River (and the East Fork South Fork) represent something special to citizens in Idaho and beyond. Whitewater paddlers and anglers travel from around the world to enjoy this irreplaceable river. Downstream from the mine site, the South Fork is suitable for Wild & Scenic designation. In addition to restricted tribal and recreational access in the 3,423 acre mine footprint and 13,446 acres of public land within the Operations Area Boundary for 20 years, unforeseen circumstances (mine or dam failures, contamination, etc.) could jeopardize even more river miles and recreational opportunities downstream.

Twenty years of jobs and the greed of a Canadian mining company is NOT worth more than the values that everyday Idahoans hold dear.

Please stop the Stibnite Mine Project.

Text that is Form Plus

"I make my living and employ 30 people annually bringing hundreds of thousands of dollars into rural Idaho communities based on the Salmon River being healthy below the South Fork confluence."

"My name is REDACTED. I am a wilderness fishing guide. I urge you to take a closer look at the proposed

Stibnite Gold Project. The DEIS is lacking critical analysis and sufficient alternatives for the public to weigh in, and the Forest Service must submit a supplemental EIS to address these issues. I also urge you to support Alternative 5: the No Action Alternative. My livelihood depends on intact ecosystems. Idaho rivers and our outdoor recreation economy are worth far more than gold!

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"I'm unsure why gold choose to park itself next to one of the most treasured areas to Idahoans. An area that is critical to chinook salmon, steelhead and bull trout. These are species that always seem to be at the bottom of our list. Even the USFS considers this area critical to these endangered species. This is an area that many know well and intimately. The water that flows through here is a shared and enjoyed with many other areas of the state and region. The risks of an open pit mine will last for generations. Gold can be found in other areas, you can't rebuild this region once an open pit mine tears it apart. Idahoans support jobs that are consistent and not a twenty year blip on the radar. Idahoans support jobs that are sustainable and don't

want to pay for clean up that can last more than the time people were employed. This should not be our legacy."

Twenty years of jobs and the greed of a Canadian mining company is NOT worth more than the values that everyday Idahoans hold dear. It's not worth it

As a taxpayer and citizen who cares about public lands,

I am an Idaho resident, an alumni of U of I, and current grad student at ISU. I have worked in the fisheries field

for 6 years, am an avid angler, and an outdoor enthusiast. I am particularly passionate about clean water and large, wild river networks.

As a retired Forest Supervisor and user of our Idaho Forests

I live in Idaho. I love our wild rivers, I love fishing and my well being is dependent on the health of those Idaho rivers. Don't be so ridiculous as to allow the Stibnite Gold Project. This application has been corrupt from the start, fast tracked due to its inherent flaws and will fail our future and the people of Idaho if allowed.

As an Idahoan in love with our natural habitat, people and animals and financially dependent on its wild appeal please challenge the Stibnite Gold Project to preserve our home.

As a long time kayaker on the S fork and passionate about our lands, rivers, and the species dependent upon them,

Thanks for your time!

Given the current state of this country wild places hold more value than mining!

We are Permitted river outfitters on the Main Salmon. Lewis & Clark Trail Adventures.

Esto perpetua.

We need to protect the long term benefit of this precious natural resource for the people of Idaho, for Idaho's recreation economy and for the health of Idahoans

As a frequent user of the South Fork of the Salmon River over the years I urge you to take a closer look at the proposed Stibnite Gold Project. A relative short window of job creation and the greed of a Canadian mining company is NOT worth more than the values that everyday Idahoans hold dear and the destruction of this spectacular area.

Can you eat or drink gold?

"The south fork of the salmon is a family favorite destination getaway with amazing

Landscape and always amazing wildlife."

"and outdoorsman passionate about our lands, rivers, and the

species dependent upon them,"

all copy, but most of the form letter is deleted

"As an angler and consumer stakeholder passionate about our lands, rivers, and the

species dependent upon them"

I am an out of state fisherman.

Public lands are worth it

Take a closer look at the proposed Stibnite Gold Project.

As climate change looms, we need to conserve our ecosystems. Say no to the Stibnite Gold mine.

With all of these negative impacts, how can the Forest Service say this project will be anything but a disaster to the ecological values of the South Fork Salmon River? Please don't let this happen!

Please stop the Stibnite Mine Project.

As an Idaho river guide for 15 years, I consider myself to be a stakeholder who is passionate about our lands rivers and the species dependent upon them, Please stop the Stibnite Mine Project. We need this river for wild fish who becoming extinct, and for future generations to come.

As a public landowner Please stop the Stibnite Mine Project!

"The South Fork Salmon River (and the East Fork South Fork) represent something special to citizens in Idaho and beyond.

I have looked far and wide for even one (1) mining project that has not severely impacted the waterways they are adjacent to. For sure they have not enhanced any River system.

Twenty years of jobs and the greed of a Canadian mining company is NOT worth more than the values that everyday Idahoans hold dear.

Please stop the Stibnite Mine Project."

" Furthermore, the USFS's frequent use of public lands for extraction of natural resources, allowing private companies and corporations to make profit from public lands, is counter to the spirit of preserving public spaces for the benefit of the public.

Please stop the Stibnite Mine Project."

Please stop the Stibnite Mine Project

Please do all that you can to stop the Stibnite Mine Project!

The long term loss is staggering!.....Please stop the Stibnit

Please protect our rivers!! PLEASE THINK TWICE! NOT TO MENTION TOURISM.

"Born and raised in S.Idaho, I have a deep love for our state. As an RN and partner of

an MD, projects like this keep us from coming home to give back to our

communities. We want to come home."

text removed from form letter #2

I am a licensed river guide in the state of Idaho and an avid river runner. I first paddled the South Fork of the Salmon in 1997 and have been back to enjoy it nearly every year since then. The pristine water that provides critical habitat for 3 endangered species and is so clear that I can see every rock on the bottom of the river as I

kayak, is one of the main reasons I keep returning. The Wilderness around me and the peace and quiet are also big draws.

I am an Idahoan. A paddler. A hunter. A skier.

" Please stop the Stibnite Mine Project.

As an Idahoan, a public land owner, an avid outdoor recreationist and a scientist passionate about our lands, rivers, and the species dependent upon them, I urge you to support the No Action Alternative and forever halt further mining at Stibnite. Our National Forests and Idaho rivers and our outdoor recreation economy need our protection! Anadromous salmon are a "keystone" species in both aquatic and terrestrial environments, meaning they influence survival or reproduction of other species. Idaho Gov. Little even implemented a Governor's Salmon Workgroup in April 2019 to address salmon and steelhead population collapse and continued substantial decline since the development of dams on the lower Snake River. Gov. Little is even quoted his wish to "develop effective salmon and steel head policy for Idaho to ensure that abundant and sustainable populations of salmon and steel head exist for present and future generations to enjoy." How can we continue to endanger habitat for these critical species when they are already facing so many assaults?

Unfortunately, not only do the fish have trouble getting to these headwaters, but now we are diminishing their chance for survival by destruction of important habitat and contamination of our water. Idahoans have protected and restored some of the best habitat for salmon and steel head anywhere in the world -- Let's continue to do so! Today, only two percent of historical populations remain - PLEASE HELP PREVENT THE EXTINCTION OF THESE

SPECIES AND OTHERS THAT RELY ON THESE SPECIES FOR SURVIVAL! Anadromous salmon are a "keystone" species in both aquatic and terrestrial

environments, meaning they influence survival or reproduction of other species. The Stibnite Gold Project would significantly modify this critical habitat for chinook (and steel head and bull trout). Please stop the Stibnite Mine Project."

Don't let this Happen!!

"I have had the good fortune to visit the pristine area threatened by the Stibnite Gold

Project. As a co-owner of these PUBLIC lands, Please help us to protect and preserve our wild resources."

from seeing the light of day

Please consider my letter as urgent opposition to the Stibnite Gold Project.

for the preservation of nature

This is bad for Idaho!

"My mom was born in Stibnite, my parents met in Yellowpine, my family spent our summers there & it is near & dear to my

heart."

It means so much to me

Public lands belong to ALL!

As a long time resident

For three generations and hopefully many more to come, my family has operated a cattle ranch on the main salmon, downstream from the proposed gold mine on the south fork. I am very concerned about potential outcomes

I urge you stop the Stibnite Mine Project.

As an avid fishermen for these wild fish, I understand they are already up against so much. We need to stand up for habitat more than ever right now. This mine is a step in the wrong direction.

DO NOT MINE THE SF!

Please halt the project, and take a closer look at the issue

Text that was not part of a Form Plus

"We sell fly fishing equipment all over the world and we are located here in Idaho, more specifically, Mccall. The reason we base our business

here in Idaho is the proximity to world class public lands and clean water with healthy fish. This allows us to share our knowledge of fishing through imagery and content and largely drive sales through our content. After reading through some of the DEIS we did not find sufficient analysis pertaining to the impacts this mine would have on outdoor recreation and access in the area. We are well connected to many businesses in the fishing and outdoor community, not only in Idaho but all throughout the US. Recreation in Idaho is on the rise.

With over \$7.8 Billion in annual recreation spending, that number will only continue to increase as long as Idaho provides the opportunities to recreate. Also, more outdoor and recreational companies will bring their business to Idaho if they know that Idaho is a state that supports recreation. The Stibnite mine puts the image of Idaho as a recreational hub in jeopardy, and limiting access to recreation in order to

make way for a mine is not only backtracking, but it sends a message that Idaho doesn't support its \$7.8 Billion recreational economy.

When the State of Utah didn't come out in favor of protecting Bears Ears National Monument, countless outdoor companies left the state as well as the state losing the Outdoor Retailer trade show and all of the money that was spent to get people to the show. The potential for people to raise their voice in protest to this project and for larger companies to get involved in speaking up could have a similar impact to

our state. Living in Mccall, we rely on the South Fork of the Salmon river for a lot of our content. The clean and clear water, big bull trout, and wilderness access helps us share a message that Idaho is wild. And we would love to see it stay that way."

"Allowing Midas Gold to reopen the Stibnite Mine will cause mass destruction to all of the ecosystems that depend on the East Fork of the South Fork of the Salmon River. Currently, if the plan is followed through, then the Stibnite Mine will become one of the largest in the country! And once underway, they plan to expand even

further! The company that owns Midas Gold isn't even from Idaho, or the United States, how will they understand what this watershed means to the Nez Perce people, the summer Chinook Salmon, bull trout, or anyone or anything else that's been connected to this river? These owners solely have a vested interest in one thing: financial gain.

Midas Gold has pitched their plan as a restoration project and puts subtle advertisements on things that are environmentally friendly such as bicycles you can rent and their docking stations in Boise. However, according to Idaho Rivers United, an organization that advocates for the protection of Idaho's Rivers and the ecosystems and people that depend on them, the Stibnite Mine will triple the carbon footprint of the old mine area. This will occur due to three open pit mines as well as the use of cyanide leaching to extract valuable metals. Aside from the damage that has been foreseen, accidents also happen. That means that toxic poisons can spread into the main Salmon River since the East Fork is one of its main tributaries. Clearly, Midas Gold prioritizes economic gain over environmental protection and stewardship and doesn't truly want to "restore" the site when it plans to cause even greater environmental harm through its mining operations. The company's DEIS states that the bull trout and Chinook Salmon, two of the species on the Endangered Species List will have their habitats destroyed by a minimum of 20%. Many other animals will be displaced. Others will be affected as well. Over 75% of this project is on PUBLIC land, hence any person who wishes to visit this awe inspiring wilderness will find themselves disappointed since over 13,000 acres of this federal land will be closed to public use and inaccessible for decades. Midas Gold's ulterior motive is monetary gain, and their facade as an environmentally focused mining company is a travesty. This mine is not worth further endangering historically important Idaho fish species and wildlife and well as

changing Idaho's pristine lands that Idaho is known for.

Please stop the Stibnite mine."

"I am writing to express my concern over the re-opening and expansion of the Stibnite Mine by Midas Gold on the East Fork of the South Fork of the Salmon River. I appreciate your time and consideration of my thoughts.

The Forest Service itself stated that the South Fork "contains the most important remaining habitat for summer Chinook salmon in the entire Columbia River Basin;" and we should place a significant priority on protecting these fish, along with bull trout, and steelhead which are all protected through the Endangered Species Act. It is unreasonable to believe that these fish will effectively use the planned mile-long fish tunnel as a diversion which is devoid of light, vegetation, insect and aquatic life. Re-channeling and de-watering streams will compromise the habitat needs of endangered species. The disruption to this vital ecosystem, the denuded forest landscape, and impact to this viable watershed will create immediate and long[shy] lasting destruction to this irreplaceable river. Additionally, open pits that are used to expose and extract gold lie on top of the streambed of the river, so it's of critical concern how the stream water diversion will impact the area in order to permit ore extraction.

The interests of Midas Gold DO NOT serve the communities they're impacting in a healthful sustainable manner. My concerns also include the leaching of tailings, which store arsenic, cyanide, and antimony, into the watershed. Arsenic, as an example, is a very harmful and toxic chemical element and this mining operation will allow arsenic to accumulate in the river through continuous exposure result in deleterious bioaccumulation in aquatic species.

My son, Luke (11), caught his first bull trout last summer on the East Fork of the South Fork and his excitement was palpable! The fish, immense and powerful, surprised him and gave him such an immediate, sudden thrill. He talked about it for days, and it's still a vivid, special memory. He, and his generation, would be devastated over the potential loss or even the degradation of such an important river. Protect the opportunity for them, and all of us, to be immersed in untainted wilderness and the chance to connect with unspoiled nature. Please, ensure the conservation and protection of our public lands for future generations and do not undermine its cultural value and significance.

Please, give considerable thought to this massive mine's effects on: water quality, critical habitat areas, and damaging and denuding Idaho's pristine landscape in perpetuity. This vital and beloved ecosystem is beloved by many and its placement at the edge of the Frank Church River of No Return Wilderness is entirely wrong.

Idaho and its famed wilderness and Wild and Scenic Rivers, of which the East Fork could certainly classify, should be preserved and protected for future generations as our heritage. Saying NO to Stibnite is the right thing to do."

"Hi, My name is Jack, and I do not support mining in the South Fork of the Salmon river. You will receive many letters from Idaho Rivers United. I read their letters, and know that they are right. From protecting self-sustaining and economy-sustaining wild and native fishes to protecting the economy that surrounds outdoor activities to just preserving clean water for us to drink, stop The Stibnite Gold Project.

I lived in Idaho for around 6 years, and then spent 6 in Trinidad and Tobago. In Idaho, I received my undergraduate degree in Ecology and Conservation Biology. In Trinidad, I worked on biological monitoring projects assessing the impacts of mining on fish populations. I earned my Masters degree in Flagstaff AZ, working with the AZGFD, USFWS, BLM and the with The Nature Conservancy to protect native fish habitat and to understand why native fish recovery fails or succeeds. Mining operations, even with massive mitigation efforts, will negatively affect water quality. Why should we care... aside from losing native species, or things of that sort?

Money.

Money lost due to the loss of tourism, money lost due to the cost of mitigations, money lost trying to rehabilitate rivers and fish populations. We lose in the long run.

I want to return to Idaho, and I want to help make it a better Idaho. I want an economy based on the wise and sustained use of natural resources. Extraction can only last so long, but we will see the downsides for decades or centuries to come.

I trust in you to make a decision that is in the best, long term, interest of the state and for the natural systems that sustain our lives. Please do all that you can to stop the Stibnite Mine Project."

"Please stop the Stibnite mine project!

The story seems to go, environmental battles are waged until the resources are extracted... People try to give a voice to the beings who don't have one. We're fighting for the future against greed. Who will profit from a gold mine which will devastate the landscape and leave a lake of poison for countless future generations? For gold!? Mass resource extraction as a practice must end - the choice here is simple - what legacy do we want to leave?

Please stop the Stibnite mine project! Please!"

Please don't do this. You think you're doing the right thing but you're not.

"I urge you to take a closer look at the proposed Stibnite Gold Project. The DEIS is showing the project can be done safely and would mitigate undesirable effects of

mining done during the past. I also urge you to support full development as Idaho rivers and our outdoor recreation economy are not able to sustain us without help

from the minerals industry. We need to stop locking up our forest and minerals industries for the sake of outdoor

enthusiasts. The two can co-exist.

The Stibnite Gold Project would not cause undue harm to ESA listed fish, the irreplaceable recreational values of the region, and indigenous resources. The East Fork/South Fork of the Salmon River provides critical habitat for
3

Endangered Species Act listed fish species: chinook salmon, steel head, and bulltrout. This project would benefit the habitat for these species. According to the USFS website, the South Fork of the Salmon is designated as critical chinook salmon habitat. "Within critical habitat, an agency must avoid actions that destroy or adversely modify that critical habitat." This project would comply with that mandate.

The benefits of the Stibnite Gold Project would extend beyond fish, however. Improvements to roads and bridges would allow more people to use this area. Currently, access to this treasure of the outdoors is extremely limited. Idaho

resources should be enjoyed and developed for all Idahoans, not just for sportsmen, anglers, and infrequent hikers.

The South Fork Salmon River (and the East Fork South Fork) represent something special to citizens in Idaho and beyond. Whitewater paddlers and anglers travel from around the world to enjoy this irreplaceable river. Downstream from the mine site, the South Fork is suitable for Wild & Scenic designation which would impose even more strictures on its use, thus insuring more land is locked up in to perpetual very limited use only, to the detriment of all. Idahoans need jobs and income to be able to enjoy these areas, and good roads and bridges to get there. As an Idahoan, I am tired of these "concerned sportsman" who want every bit of land shut in so no development can ever happen--what good is the land then?

Twenty years of jobs and the foresight of a Canadian mining company to restore the area is a great opportunity for the state and represents the values that everyday Idahoans hold dear.

Please stop the special interest groups from shutting down this project."

I have never been to the place this mine will be established in. I don't think I've ever been to the state of Idaho. But a person that I respect greatly is very passionate about this particular river, and I know for a fact that mining operations are terrible for marine ecosystems around them. Governing bodies can limit how destructive mining operations are, but they are necessarily destructive to some degree. We have more than enough gold, and an already too small and dwindling number of beautiful rivers in this country. I would like to visit Idaho some day, and I'd like to be able to come here and see a beautiful river rather than a monument to capitalism.

"Idaho has been my home for 24 out of 28 years. I've made a living on the Salmon river working in Idaho's amazing outdoor industry. I love this state and all that defines it. This project - I do not love. This proposed mining project is an insult to what we have going for us as Idahoans. We are a whitewater state. We have pristine, undamed rivers. We have anglers that come from around the country to experience Idaho's river corridors and to trout

fishing. We have rafters and kayakers that spend years waiting to pull a Salmon/Selway lottery ticket. This mine threatens all of that. The Stibnite Gold project will disrupt critical habitat for ESA listed species like bull trout, chinook salmon, and steelhead. Increased traffic to the yellow pine area and beyond threaten small streams exposing them to erosion, sedimentation and potentially hazardous material. There is no such thing as an environmentally friendly mine. There is no such thing as a well intentioned mine. The risk of spills, leaching, tailings dam failures is far to

great and Idaho/Idahoans deserve better. The promise of boom and bust jobs from a Canadian company and long-lasting environmental impairment is worth so much less than the outdoor economy and the draw of pristine environment that Idaho has fostered for years. This mine puts our public land at risk and it is a risk you shouldn't allow.

I urge you to support Alternative 5 - the No Action Alternative and do not support

this mining project."

"I am a born-and-raised Idahoan, a whitewater boater, a former guide and have kayaked the East Fork South Fork Salmon River and South Fork Salmon River, in addition to the rivers it feeds and other rivers in our state, country and outside the US. I understand the potential detrimental impact the proposed mining project will have on this river system, to both the threatened fish populations (and reliant species) and the economic impact.

Idaho's rivers provide drinking water, food sources, recreation, hydroelectric power and crucial habitat for fish and other wildlife species. Idaho's rivers are the lifeblood of the state's cherished open spaces and wild country and is the reason so many of us love living in this great state and the draw for other Americans to experience what we hold dear.

Nobody wants to see Idaho's rivers soiled or abused, but often there's a dramatic imbalance between the desires of mining corporations and other interests and the sustainability of our unpolluted rivers, native fish populations and our outdoor recreation/tourism industry. There is more at stake than the short-lived profits of a non-US mining company and is NOT worth more than the values that everyday Idahoans cherish. Our Idaho economy can and will thrive on recreation and tourism, if we protect our precious resources, and this has not been addressed in the DEIS. Let's not put our most precious resources in potential danger.

Please do all that you can to stop the Stibnite Gold Mine Project."

" We've spent hundreds of years taking things out of the land and we don't have a lot of good to show for it. Let's leave it in the ground and protect life and the river itself for a change. It seems very irresponsible now that we know the repercussions of such actions and the beyond poor track record for reclamation across the world. This all looks very expensive for very little long term gain.

Please stop the Stibnite Mine Project."

Please do not let this stibnite mine alter the delicate ecosystem of this river treasured by so many and needed by the species residing/relying on it. Any kind of advantage or monetary value of this operation pales in comparison to the unaltered natural beauty and importance of this river. This river must be preserved. The stibnite mine cannot happen.

" I'll be brief-I am a lifelong resident of the east coast. 3 years ago I left for the west looking for a place I could call home again. The only state that truly spoke to me was Idaho. I paddled multiple sections of the Payette River system, and backpacked in the Sawtooth mountains. I saw the landscape I had always envisioned as that of the west-and I can't wait to spend much more time there. I greatly want to explore the region around the South Fork Salmon many times in the future, in an undisturbed, natural state.

Please stop the Stibnite Mine Project."

" At 16 years old I have visited many beautiful places in Idaho. I love to hike, ski, hunt, fish, kayak, and overall just love exploring Idaho and its beauty. I have only been in the South Fork of the Salmon country once and it was one of my favorite experiences I've had in my life. I would love to one day explore this area more and kayak,

fish, and ski this area, but if this gold mine is put into place, it will harm many of the fish, pollute the pristine clear water of the south-fork, and overall ruin much of that country. There are many more kids my age that feel the same and if this gold mine is

put in, we will never be able to see the full beauty the south-fork has to offer.

Please consider my letter, Willie White"

Please read the prepared message and fully understand it. Also please know I would rather live without whatever benefits you think this mine is offering and be able to continue to see this sacred place remain as pristine as it is. There would be no going back from allowing the greedy corporate interest into OUR river system. Thanks for your humanity and foresight in this issue.

" I am writing in regards to the Midas Stibnite Gold Project. This major project in the headwaters of the South Fork of the Salmon is, I believe, not in the interests of Idahoans. The South Fork is a pristine gem of a river that is accessible by road for much of its length lending to it tremendous value for recreation for all Idahoans. Part of the river runs through a near wilderness setting as well. All of this -recreation, wilderness character, fishing and water quality will be put at great risk by this project.

The South Fork offers probably the best Chinook Salmon habitat in the Salmon River drainage and this should be protected. The South Fork in addition is important bull trout and steel head habitat. It is clearly important to Idahoans who care about these species and the future of fishing opportunities for them.

The South Fork has the best whitewater recreation in the Salmon River drainage and in an era where our other rivers (Main Salmon/Middle Fork/Hells Canyon) are at capacity in terms of recreation opportunities and permits to float it offers an amazing opportunity for river recreation.

The comment period is inadequate. At a time just before the election this comment period should be extended to 120 days and not shortened. There are a lot of other things going on at this time and the public needs time to respond to these issues."