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First name: Julia
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Organization:
Title:
Comments: Dear Sirs:

I am extremely concerned about the impact of reopening the Stibnite Gold mines east of Yellow Pine. This is an area where I frequently recreate, both fishing and kayaking on the South Fork of the Salmon. A gold mine and processing plant will necessarily require the use of toxic materials such as arsenic and mercury. These toxins are extremely difficult to control and mitigate. This area has already been declared a Superfund site and cleaned up once at the public's expense. I am concerned that taxpayers will once again be left with the expense of the mine cleanup after it closes.

This mine will necessarily degrade the water for the endangered salmon and bull trout native to the river. In a similar case at the Buckhorn Mine in NE Washington State the mine has now officially closed, but the water discharge from the mined area continues not to meet the pre-mining conditions. This is in violation of the permits initially issued for the mine. There is concern that the taxpayers of Washington State will end up paying for the remediation of the water discharging from the mine site.

Thank you for your consideration of my comments.

Julia Bent