Data Submitted (UTC 11): 9/15/2020 5:16:03 PM
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Title:
Comments: THE SALMON RIVER IS EXTRAORDINARY. NO OTHER WESTERN RIVER OF SUCH VOLUME AND GRADIENT IS SO NEARLY INTACT. WHILE THE NATURAL SEASONAL RHYTHMS OF MANY OTHER RIVERS HAVE BEEN ERASED, THE SALMON AND ITS TRIBUTARIES REMAIN WILD AND FREE. IT IS BOTH ONE-OF-A-KIND AND THE LAST OF ITS KIND. HAVING GUIDED ON THE MAIN SALMON, I'VE SPENT MANY MOONS ALONG ITS NEARLY PRISTINE BANKS. I'VE WITNESSED LIVES CHANGE THROUGH THE RIVER TRIPS AND EXPERIENCES IT PROVIDES, MINE INCLUDED. IT IS BELOVED BY MANY: RAFTERS, FISHERMEN, HUNTERS, LAND CONSERVATION EMPLOYEES, AND MORE. WHILE IT ATTRACTS ALL WALKS OF LIFE, THE LOVE FOR THIS RIVER SYSTEM REMAINS THE COMMON GROUND FOR ALL. BUT THIS AREA SERVES A PURPOSE FAR MORE IMPORTANT THAN RECREATION, IT SUPPLIES HABITAT FOR ENDANGERED SALMON AND TROUT. THESE ALREADY THREATENED SPECIES OF FISH NEED THE CLEAN WATER OF THE SALMON TO THRIVE. THE ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT OF RE-OPENING PIT MINING WOULD BE CATASTROPHIC AND IRREVERSIBLE. NO PRECIOUS METALS ARE WORTH FURTHER HARMING THIS UNIQUE AND FRAGILE ECOSYSTEM.