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Organization:

Title:

Comments: I am writing to oppose the reopening of the Stibnite Gold Project on the South Fork of the Salmon. I have had the great privilege of being a guide on the Salmon River, spending nights under the stars and days being pushed along by the cool, green water. The people that come to this place; they know it's special. It doesn't take long for the wildness to tug on your heartstrings, to show you a place that is beautiful and complex and bigger than yourself. The South Fork is one of these such places, a place of wildness, of discovery, of vibrant life. A mine threatens all of the things the South Fork is. While I understand Midas Gold's approach is one focused on restoration, a restored mine is still a mine that would have many negative impacts on the South Fork. Fish populations in which the South Fork is famous for, recreational whitewater that keeps people coming back time and time again, all could disappear with the mine being active. Economic gain is not worth the suffering of this place, and the people who have called it home for generations. I can't speak for the Nez Perce, but I have observed how important this place is to the tribe. It is their lifeblood and to destroy that would be an injustice topping the many injustices already committed against indigenous peoples. At the end of the day, a mine isn't worth it. It isn't worth sacrificing one of the most pristine rivers in the nation. It isn't worth the sacrifice of healthy fish populations. The Stibnite Gold Project will benefit a few people, while the South Fork benefits so many. We've lost many natural treasures at the hands of development and these wild places can't speak for themselves. We can give a voice to the places we love, and I would like to advocate to protect this river for years to come, for the people who have yet to dip a toe in its waters, for the salmon that have yet to spawn upstream. Protecting rivers benefits us for an eternity while mines benefit us for a few decades. The Stibnite Gold Project isn't worth sacrificing the South Fork of the Salmon.