Data Submitted (UTC 11): 9/15/2020 9:15:26 PM
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Title:
Comments: A mining company seeking to put in a mine in a protected watershed which will not only have disastrous effects by releasing heavy metals and toxins into the river but also disregard a signed a treaty between the United States Government and an Indigenous group. Sound familiar? It does to me. I do not live in Idaho and I have never had the opportunity to visit the South Fork of the Salmon and if this mine is put in, I will never be able to. You, the forest service, sit as the gatekeeper to the critical junction. Right now we are seeing the real effects of climate change, deforestation, and lack of forest management in California and ethe effects of warming sea levels in the Gulf of Mexico. The decisions we make as a nation right now will determine our path forward for the future.

Indigenous knowledge is an essential to tackling climate change. As the keepers of the land we now call America, they cared and nurtured this country into the wild and wonderful wilderness that makes our country so special. By disregarding the Nez Perce tribe by violating their land agreement, we are sending a clear message to Indigenous people: We are telling them that we don't value them or their knowledge. We cannot afford to do this on a moral or pragmatic level.

Furthermore, we know that multiple species of fish including the Chinook Salmon, steelhead, and other trout spawn in the river. By contaminating the river, an inevitable consequence of opening the mine, we risk losing these fish and as a result, the entire ecosystem.

These are only a few of the consequences of disrupting the South Fork of the Salmon River but I hope you can see that the decision you are about to make has dire consequences. Many people are counting on you to make the right decision and deny the permits for mine. Failure to do so will destroy the environment for so many souls that call the South Fork home and who come to recreate. Do not let them down. Do not let the future of this county down.