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Comments: The Salmon River is a watering hole for recreation, wildlife, and Idaho culture. I consider it the heart of Idaho. Growing up in Stanley the river is the epicenter of life and home of hundreds of diverse species and ecosystems. An open pit gold mine would destroy not only all those ecosystems but it would be yet another irreversible step towards climate change. With so much bad occurring right now I've come back home to Stanley to get peace of mind and spirit. This includes several trips down the salmon including the middle fork, main, and south fork. Beautiful environments such as these deserve to be protected. The backcountry demands respect. The addition of an open-pit gold mine goes against environmental progress and stamps a monetary value to the earth for private companies to utilize. The south fork is for the people and for the culture of Idaho. Do not let monetary gain cloud the decision to protect this beautiful country.