Data Submitted (UTC 11): 9/16/2020 5:38:01 PM First name: Samuel Last name: Tillinghast Organization:

## Title:

Comments: The Stibnite gold mine absolutely cannot be approved. There is simply too much at stake. The South Fork of the Salmon River watershed is invaluable to outdoor recreationists, the ecosystem, the Idaho economy, and the national common. This mine would devastate a crucial salmon run which is one of the last few healthy salmon runs in the Columbia River watershed. The ecological impact of this project would be irreversible. There are few truly wild places in our country and this is one of the crown jewels of them. As a whitewater kayaker and river guide the idea that the South Fork is at risk is devastating. The South Fork Salmon is regarded by whitewater kayakers as one of best whitewater rivers in the entire world. It has amazing rapids blanketed in incredible Wilderness. The kayak shop I work at in Missoula makes a large income from kayakers gearing up for their trips down the south fork. Much of my personal income in the summer comes from driving shuttles for people kayaking this river. As an environmental studies student at the University of Montana, it is clear to me that the environmental impact of this project is simply not worth the reward. Destroying some of the last pristine Wilderness in this country for short term economic gain by few is simply not worth it. Not for our ecosystems, not for recreationists, not for the tribes who have used this land for thousands of year, and not for the countless Americans who will never get to experience this truly amazing piece of our country. The Wilderness act is a national trust which places inherent value in the natural beauty of untouched natural areas in this country, holding it in trust for Americans to enjoy and learn from in perpetuity. This mine proposal directly opposes this idea and denies Americans their right to America's Wilderness. There is too much at stake and this mine absolutely cannot go through. The Forest Service must choose Alternative 5, the No Action Alternative, to protect invaluable salmon runs, pristine wilderness, intact ecosystems, and recreational opportunities for generations to come.