Data Submitted (UTC 11): 9/19/2020 4:33:29 AM First name: Sara Last name: McWhirter Organization:

## Title:

Comments: The Stibnite Mine project, if allowed to go forward, would be incredibly destructive to the wild lands and cultures surrounding it. First, the tailings from the mine would include many harmful substances such as mercury, arsenic, and cyanide, all of which would eventually be deposited into the waters of the South Salmon and detract from the air quality of the region. The presence of these pollutants in the Salmon river would affect bull trout and chinook spawning grounds heavily. In addition to polluting the air, the mine would have a very negative impact on the air visibility in the Frank Church-River of No Return wilderness. The mine would also detract from visitor access to the Frank Church wilderness, creating a barrier for those who want to enjoy the wild lands surrounding the mine. Another more cultural impact: the mine would impede traditional tribal uses of the land, including fishing (due to the impact on spawning grounds). Also, the popular kayaking on the South Salmon and other recreation in the area would be affected by a combination of access and environmental issues. There would be a staggering influx of mining influence on towns such as McCall, creating a socioeconomic imbalance that the locals never asked for. Growth isn't always a good thing. Lastly, the increased traffic on existing and newly built roads will not only pollute the area but raise safety concerns for locals. To conclude, the Stibnite Mine project would be destructive to the Frank Church wilderness, to the small towns surrounding, and to anyone who wishes to enjoy the South Salmon and its wild lands.