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First name: Riley Last name: Elgerd Organization:

Title:

Comments: As an outdoor recreator and graduate of Montanan State University with a degree in Environmental Science and Natural Resource Management, I strongly oppose the Stibnite open pit mine proposal. Open pit mines are detrimental to the natural environment, releasing hazardous compounds such as arsenic and mercury into protected waterways that support life of all kinds, and act as habitat to endangered species. This degredation of water quality can be harmful on many levels. In addition to this, as a guide on the Salmon River, one of the most stunning aspects of this area is the expanse of wilderness area, untouched by man. By allowing this mine to go through, I believe we will set a dangerous precedent for the next generation to allow public land and wilderness areas to be destroyed for the purpose of financial development, which will be disproportionally spread to corporations, while those who's lives have been affected by the mine receive minimal compensation.