Data Submitted (UTC 11): 9/29/2020 2:02:16 AM
First name: Katie
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Organization:
Title:
Comments: Please consider alternatives to this mining project. I have spent a considerable amount of time in this drainage and its surrounding areas and trust that my deep love for this area is shared by many Idahoans and those who reside far beyond. Please remember the following: recreation (fishing, hunting, ATV use, whitewater kayaking, hiking, etc) accounts for a significant amount of income for this area. This is the longest stretch of river to remain undammed in the lower 48. Finally, unfortunately mines in ID have a subpar history of abandoning locations leaving behind superfund sites leaving considerable amounts of dangerous and expensive cleanup. This impacts others financially and in health. Cyanide, mercury and arsenic are all contaminants typical of these mining operations, all are very harmful to life in the soil and aquatic ecosystems. While this area is sure to generate some amount of money, it is possible there are more sustainable, locally beneficial, and environmentally minded ways that do not have such a dramatic long term impact.
While my time spent in this area is now purely recreationally, I have worked professionally in the outdoors and have a background in geology. As such, I am both keenly aware of the potential harms of such a project as well as the numerous benefits of not doing this. Please consider an alternative to this project. Thank you.