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Organization:

Title:

Comments: As an individual who values the rivers and spectacular whitewater resources of Idaho, I am writing to support Alternative 5, the No Action Alternative outlined in the Stibnite Gold Project's Draft Environmental Impact Statement. I am not writing representing a "special interest group," I am writing as a concerned citizen and stakeholder who utilizes these public lands in their current undiminished state, lands for which I am an owner of and for which the Forest Service is directed to manage in the public interest. The rivers of the South Fork Salmon watershed contain world class whitewater that paddlers from across the country and the world travel to Idaho to visit.

The DEIS clearly states that all of the alternatives presented, apart from Alternative 5, would adversely affect federally listed endangered fish species, their habitat, and the watershed's water quality and quantity. It is incredibly important to me personally that the Forest Service protect the outstanding water quality of this major tributary to the Wild and Scenic Salmon River, as this river system is vitally important for native and endangered fish, outdoor recreation, and the economic vitality of the local communities that surround it. Moving forward with this project would not only adversely impact my personal enjoyment of this public resource through whitewater paddling, camping and fishing, it would negatively impact all of the people of Idaho who rely on the hundreds of thousands of visitors each year to our National Forests.

The South Fork Salmon River is finally healing from the scars of past mining activity, and the impacts of expanded mining activity represents an unacceptable risk to this watershed. It is a world class destination that I had the good fortune of visiting and paddling through just a few months ago. This river and the surroundings have made a lasting impression on me and I can't wait to return.

Thank you for your consideration.