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Organization:

Title:

Comments: My love for kayaking has led me to discover many amazing rivers in 22 US states, 4 Canadian Provinces and 4 countries in Central and South American. For years I've heard amazing stories of a pristine Idaho River that features crystal clear water, world class whitewater, picture perfect scenery and a secluded, back-country feel. I finally got to experience a three day trip on South Fork of the Salmon in July 2019 and found that none of the stories that I had heard were exaggerated. It exceeded my expectations and was definitely a highlight in my 25 years of paddling. Every paddler should experience this river. I hope to return, but next time I'd love to paddle The East Fork into the classic multi-day stretch on The South Salmon.

It was very heart-breaking to hear about the proposed mining expansion in the East Fork drainage. A place as unique and special as the South Fork needs to remain untarnished. I understand that minerals need to be extracted from somewhere, but the largely untouched South Fork drainage is a very inappropriate place for it to happen.

My 2019 trip to the South Fork was not inexpensive. The invitation to join the trip came quite late and I had to buy a \$700+ plane ticket from Nashville to Salt Lake City just weeks before departure. We crossed the Idaho line not long after I landed and we began spending money on a truck rental, gasoline, groceries, meals in restaurants and our Idaho Invasive Species Boat Stickers. That money was spent in towns such as Burley, Twin Falls, Boise and McCall. The biggest expense beyond the plane ticket was hiring the shuttle service (\$300+) out of Riggins. A pristine South Fork is good for the Idaho economy. Experiencing the South Fork was worth the price and I hope to return to an untouched, pristine river someday soon.