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Organization:

Title:

Comments: Dear USFS,

I am writing this in regards to the threat to the Headwaters of the Salmon River system as a result of Midas Gold's proposed Stibnite Gold Project.

This year was my first experience of the South Fork of the Salmon. The plan was to paddle 50+ miles (South Fork to Middle Fork, Middle to take-out), in the span of a day which sounded like an overly optimistic goal. As we began to paddle the first couple of miles, the mountains began to shoot up from the banks as the fog danced with the pines and firs. Everything was silenced by the roar of the river. The journey downstream is a form of hypnosis, as it takes all your attention away from the trivial and shifts you into the now. Before we knew it, 50 became 30 and 30 became one. Many have sulked in the beauty of the Salmon, but many others have yet to get the opportunity to do so. It's a beauty that lingers in your mind. It's a beauty that you want everyone to understand.

The exploitation of pristine land for resource production only makes sense when you look at it through a short term lens. Minerals are finite resources; tourism, outdoor recreation, and other commercial opportunities aren't. Revenue made off the land can be infinite, if approached wisely. Instead of profiting off the exploitation of the land, profit off the conservation of it. When we feed into the instant gratification loop of our consumerist bubble, we neglect the long-term effects of our actions. We are turning our ears, eyes, and hearts away from the only reality we all share; we all live on the same planet, and as easily as we've begun to destroy it, we can also continue to protect it.

I urge you to listen.