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Title:

Comments: To whom it may concern, I write with deep concern regarding the Stibnite Gold Project moving forward within the headwaters of the South Fork Salmon River. This drainage, along with the other forks of the Salmon River, is valued by recreational users to an extent that it is considered sacred by many. We go here to seek solace, to find wide expanses of unencumbered wilderness, and to connect with an intact, healthy, and vibrant river system. Every aspect of the Stibnite project would jeopardize these critically important components of the South Fork Salmon. Be it simply new and considerable large truck traffic or heaven forbid a large scale ecological disaster as a result of mine spillage -- all facets of large-scale mining in the headwaters of a relatively pristine ecosystem would change how the watershed functions, both from an ecological standpoint for the local flora and fauna, but also from a perceived value standpoint from the many recreational users of the land and the river. In a world that is moving towards greater connectivity and greater online presence, many of us seek places like the South Fork Salmon to disconnect and to go offline. The South Fork is where we charge the batteries of our souls, where we connect with the great landscape that the river carves through, where we touch the water and connect with its wild and beautiful energy, and just as important, where we connect with each other as humans through shared loved for a place and shared experience as we interact with what that place has to offer. We leave the South Fork Salmon as better humans because of these experiences and connections, and that energy and internal peace is then carried far beyond the watershed boundaries, and does far more good for the world than any nugget of gold ever will. The Stibnite mine, both in physical manifestation and in symbolic meaning, would pierce the heart of the South Fork Salmon and take away so much from its sacred standing. We/l beg you to leave this wonderful landscape intact, leave it for our generation, leave it for the next generation. The value of resource extraction is finite, while the value of Place to thousands of people is immeasurable. This is our one chance to get it right, and I plead with you to deny the continuation of the Stibnite Gold Project.