Data Submitted (UTC 11): 10/28/2020 2:06:58 PM

First name: Oona Last name: Watkins Organization:

Title:

Comments: The Stibnite Gold Project poses unnecessary and long-term risk to the region's wildlife, water quality, and public use of the South Fork of the Salmon River. The East Fork of the South Fork is home to bull trout, Chinook salmon, steelhead, and westslope cutthroat. Three of these fish are already federally protected and the fourth is proposed for listing under the Endangered Species Act. Adding the footprint of a mining project - as well as toxic byproducts from gold extraction - would disturb and harm sensitive habitat that these fish depend upon today. Mining activities will also increase water temperatures, which can negatively impact fish that spawn there in the summer and fall. These fish depend on clean, clear, and cold waters for survival. The Stibnite Gold Project would significantly cut the quantity and quality of fish habitat in the South Fork of the Salmon River. This project should be rejected before it has the chance to cause long-term damage to nearby headwaters and wildlife.