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First name: Jordan

Last name: Fields

Organization:

Title:

Comments: Resource extraction is a necessary part of life in the modern world. However, the areas we choose to extract those resources from must be chosen carefully. The South Fork of the Salmon River is not a location where a new mine should be opened. One need not look far to find myriad examples of the consequences of mining in wilderness areas and river corridors. California's rivers are still recovering from the legacy of placer mining and hillslope removal that took place nearly 150 years ago. The Animas river in Southern Colorado is poisoned by acid mine drainage, as exemplified by being dyed completely orange just a few years ago. The Salmon River system is one of the most ecologically and hydrologically important regions in our nation -- is it worth the sacrifice of a few tons of gold? I am a river scientist and teacher. I spend every day considering the necessary balance between economics and ecology. No, not all mining projects are bad. But this one is situated in a region prone to hydrologic volatility and pristine wilderness. That combination means that risk is high the consequences immense. This is not the place to build a mine. It wasn't 100 or 50 years ago and it isn't now. Please say no to this project.