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Comments: I am writing in opposition to the proposed Stibnite Gold Project on the headwaters of the South Fork Salmon River. As you know, the proposed area is listed as critical habitat to endangered species such as chinook salmon, steelhead, and bull trout. As these species near extinction, protecting critical habitat should be of utmost importance. Losing these species would be an ecological travesty and have a huge economic impact on the entire Northwest.

The South Fork Salmon River should also be protected for its recreational value. The South Fork Salmon and the Main Salmon (the river that the South Fork flows into) are whitewater gems and much of the area they drain is Wilderness. Compromising these rivers could destroy this recreational resource and hit Idaho's tourism industry hard. Many Idaho towns' livelihoods are dependent on the health of these rivers and if protected they have the ability to drive economies far into the future.

I'd like to sign off with a quote from "Wild River" by John Craighead written in 1957. "It is essential to preserve intact a few of the "wild" rivers of this region for recreation and education of future generations. Any outdoor pursuit which brings a man into intimate contact with natural scenery, natural forces and the unaltered web of life is highly educational. The right to experience this should be as inalienable as freedom of worship. To preserve it is a trust falling to each succeeding generation."

Thank you for your time and consideration.