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Title:

Comments: This is a personal comment on the Stibnite Gold Project. I urge the Payette Forest to safeguard the South Fork of the Salmon by denying this application to mine. I know the project area, mainly through engagement with past mining projects and proposals in it while working for the Idaho Conservation League from 1977 through 1984.

Through my work on salmon the past 30 years, I have come to know many fish biologists and ecologists, active and retired. Every one of these women and men I have asked about this project are certain it will have significant negative effect on the ESA-listed salmon and steelhead of the South Fork. Of particular concern to me is the wild steelhead population of the South Fork. These fish are already facing the grim gauntlet of dams downstream. The Forest Service has identified the salmon and steelhead of the South Fork Salmon as critical populations needing protection. The Stibnite Mine Project, as proposed, will significantly reduce the protection, and significantly increase the risk to, these ESA-listed fish. That is unacceptable to me personally, and contrary to the Forest Service's treaty, legal, and regulatory commitments to help restore these ESA-listed populations.

Large-scale mining in this area has never occurred without major damage to streams, stream integrity, fish, U.S. treaty guarantees to native tribes, and recreational users of the South Fork. Please say no to this project. The Forest Service has pledged to be a partner in restoring Idaho salmon and steelhead. I see that pledge in action on the Middle Fork Salmon and other salmon streams. Please keep it in action on the South Fork Salmon.

Thank you.