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First name: Kimberly

Last name: Kazanowski

Organization:

Title:

Comments: To whom it may concern,

Pit mining has historically caused a great deal of degradation and harm to its surrounding environments and natural resources. To move forward with this mining operation on the South Fork Salmon is to blatantly disregard the value of such a natural ecosystem with ill intent. Refusing to protect this river and its diverse fish populations is reckless and fails to consider the implications that can and will happen as a result of this project. Preservation of ecosystems and natural features should be the central focus of the U.S. Forest service, above anything else. Choosing to engage in such a destructive act fails to embody a politically sound agenda, and should be deeply reconsidered. Public land should remain public land, regardless of economic incentive and other trivial interests. Keep pit mining out of the South Fork Salmon.