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First name: Carly

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Organization:

Title:

Comments: To Whom It May Concern,

My name is Carly Knudson. As an Idaho resident, guide, recreator, public land owner, and conservation activist that was raised in Salmon, Idaho all of my life, I find that the DEIS is a preposterous, ignorant, and self-serving proposition. This proposal would be harmful in nearly every realm- prioritizing profit over the sustainability and health of sensitive ecosystems, local fish and wildlife populations, local tourism and recreation benefits, and would contribute to irreversible communal climate change impacts.

It was stated to leave emotions and opinions out of these comments, and to ensure comments were substantive. I understand that narrative, and it's possible this comment will not be regarded as such, but I find that in cases like this that it is equally as important to also recognize that deals like this do come with emotion and opinion. A quintessential aspect of who I am as a person is dependent upon my upbringing in Salmon- as a kid I learned how to swim in a river before a pool; I would go fishing with my parents and camp in some of the most wild and scenic river corridors that I was lucky enough to have as my backyard. Growing up in Salmon possibly gave me a sort of selfish possessiveness and skewed sense of preserving the "pristine", but it also made me very aware of the complicated nature of public land and water rights. Being raised by a rural Idaho river town that equally celebrates conservation and recreation along with having a reliance on industries such as ranching and mining, along with having parents that are employed by government-run agencies such as the USFS and BLM, it has given me an awareness that issues like this are not simple. They are multi-faceted, complex, and can sometimes feel as though we are putting off the inevitable.

I know that there have been hundreds, if not thousands of comment submissions that point out evidence-based research regarding all of the specifics of how this mine would be harmful and non-practical. As a person rooted in science in my work and lifestyle, I applaud and echo these concerns. However I also find that this deal needs to be humanized and recognize that it is beyond a business deal. It needs to be seen beyond the logistics of business and data. This place is a home to countless individuals, communities and ecosystems that rely on it for both survival and identity.

I staunchly believe that this project and this prioritization of private interest over common good is not inevitable in this instance. Our public lands should not be for sale, especially in the case of a place that is as iconic and sacred of a space as the South Fork Salmon. In fear of being considered "non-substantive," it is a place that I want to be able to experience myself and share with generations to come, and the integrity, individuality, and sacred aspects of this canyon can simply not be preserved with the construction of this mine.

Thank you for your time and consideration,

Carly Knudson