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Comments: "What a country chooses to save is what a country chooses to say about itself." This quote said by Mollie Beattie, former head of the U.S. department of Fish and Wildlife, allows one to seriously consider why the stoppage of the Stibnite Gold Mine is absolutely imperative. The DEIS is lacking critical analysis and sufficient alternatives for the public to weigh in, and the Forest Service must submit a supplemental EIS to address these issues. I urge you to support Alternative 5: the No Action Alternative. Idaho rivers and our outdoor recreation economy are worth far more than gold!

The East Fork/South Fork of the Salmon River provides critical habitat for 3 Endangered Species Act listed fish species: chinook salmon, steelhead, and bull trout. According to the USFS website, the South Fork of the Salmon is designated as critical chinook salmon habitat. "Within critical habitat, an agency must avoid actions that destroy or adversely modify that critical habitat." The Stibnite Gold Project would significantly modify this critical habitat for chinook (and steelhead and bull trout). According to Alternative 2 (Midas Gold's proposal) of the DEIS, this project would destroy 20.8% of chinook salmon critical habitat and 27.5% of bull trout critical habitat in the analysis area. This loss is absolutely unacceptable.

Wild places and wilderness are ingrained into our blood as Americans. The profits of mining and the construction of new roads in this area do not outweigh what would be lost. When I think of America I picture wilderness and the unknown.. In fact, I would argue that wild places like the EF of the South Salmon area embody a piece of our character as Americans. As time drags on, less and less of these wild places exist. The East Fork of the South Fork of the Salmon should be protected from the Stibnite Gold Mine so that we can preserve this feeling of American wilderness that is so rare.