Data Submitted (UTC 11): 10/28/2020 8:18:30 PM
First name: Jake
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Organization:
Title:
Comments: I am an outdoor industry professional, a whitewater boater, and an avid user and stakeholder of public lands and waterways in Idaho. I am also an inhabitant of the Columbia River watershed, of which the Salmon River is a tributary. Therefore, any impacts on water quality on the Salmon River and its tributaries also impact the Columbia River.

I am writing to support Alternative 5, the No Action Alternative outlined in the Stibnite Gold Project's Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

No other alternative is effective for preserving the integrity of the clean water and healthy surrounding environment that numerous endangered and protected fish species, thousands of outdoor recreation industry jobs, and millions of visitors to Idaho's national forests rely on.

The DEIS of the Stibnite Gold Project fails to consider recent and relevant data in its analysis of impact on the local outdoor recreation industry which includes 78,000 jobs. It fails to outline plans for managing hazardous waste or to properly analyze risk of spills in storage and transport. Additionally, modeling in the DEIS shows that arsenic, mercury, antimony, and other metals will contaminate groundwater even after the mine has closed. Groundwater contamination will, in turn contaminate surface water. This modeling also fails to consider faults and fractures in the area that would further challenge any cleanup efforts.

The Salmon River and tributaries are already in a state of restoration from previous mining projects. This project proposes to be undertaken on an undisturbed parcel. This would be an unacceptable undermining of all the efforts to restore and protect the Salmon watershed since it's designation as a Wild and Scenic river.

It is very important to me that the Forest Service protect the outstanding water quality of the Wild and Scenic Salmon River watershed by selecting the No Action Alternative. Thank you for your consideration.