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Organization:

Title:

Comments: To Forest Service

I would like to ask that the Stibnite Gold mining project NOT to proceed.

Reason one: 75% of which is public land, and as a public land owner, I say, Do NOT let this project take place on my public land! I do not have anything to gain by this proposal and plenty to lose if this were to proceed. It is my opinion that nearly every gold mine in US history spills hazardous materials into the creeks and rivers and will then poison the fish and their food source that all flows downstream. This cannot happen on the peoples land.

Reason two: My family and myself work directly and would be impacted by what happens on the Salmon River as it provides career and livelihood for both my son and me. We both are employees of recreational guided river tour company on the Salmon River. The Stibnite mine project and proposal would detrimentally impact our professional livelihood. The fish in the rivers system and every river downstream would be impacted by this proposal. Professional and recreation fishing downstream would be adversely impacted. Moreover The state of Idaho and the federal government has put forth millions of dollars to protect and promote the fish species reproduction. The proposed project is will adversely harm ESA (Endangered Species Act) listed Bull Trout and Chinook Salmon by destroying critical spawning and rearing habitat. Additionally harm would befall wild steelhead, rainbow trout, and native Westslope cutthroat trout that call theses rivers home and spawning areas. It would be uncontainable to allow a negative impact of a mine to proceed and then spend more taxpayers dollars to help restore struggling fish species in the very same riverway. To have a mine at the proposed site will threaten irreplaceable environmental and recreational resources downstream of the project. These fish in-turn provide ecological impact the other wildlife that feed on thus provide nutrients to the wilderness of the river corridor. The proposal includes a tunnel, and nowhere in history has a tunnel been tried or tested. The Stibnite is not the testing site to "give it a try" when native and endangered species are at stake.

Reason three: Beyond just the environmental and recreation impacts, the Stibnite project jeopardizes the native Nez Perce Tribe's treaty rights to their aboriginal hunting, fishing, and foraging grounds. The US Forest Service's needs to conduct a rigorous and fair environmental review of this project and not blindly accept the Midas gold Corp to conduct its own. I am deeply disappointed that this project has been moving to this point of process without a government or independent environmental study.

South Fork of the Salmon River and or including the East Fork of the South Fork is suitable to meet the designation as Wild and Scenic river. Therefore, it is paramount that water quality not be compromised with a proposed mine so that this river can remain clean clear cold, but rather it should be protected and someday join the ranks of other pristine Idaho Wild and Scenic rivers just as the honorable Frank Church would have wanted to see these areas protected.

Please protect this area, these rivers, and this wilderness from the Stibnite Gold mining proposal and take my thoughts and letter into consideration.

Best to you,

- Krista Kear