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Title:

Comments: First off, thank you for taking time to consider this comment. I am a college student and lifelong river enthusiast who cares deeply about the health of our rivers and the ecosystems that surround them. I have been hearing about the Stibnite Gold Project for the last few months and have been doing research on the potential gold mine for the last few weeks. Through my research, I had a hard time coming up with any positives that the project will bring. I understand that it will only benefit external sources, it will pollute the river with mercury, cyanide, and arsenic, which will all be a major threat to the species who call the river their home, and it will require diversion of the East Fork, completely changing the natural path of the river. While I have not personally experienced the South Fork of the Salmon, I have grown up rafting on many other parts of the Salmon and it has had a huge influence on my life. As I have gotten into kayaking in recent years, the South Fork of the Salmon has been high on my bucket list and I think that many others could say the same. According to everyone I know who have experienced this section of whitewater, they all agree that this truly is one of the greatest sections of river in North America. I hope that my kids and the future generations are able to experience these beautiful places, and if this mine project gets underway, it will vastly change the landscape of this area for the rest of our lives. The already endangered Salmon and Trout do not need any more stress on their already difficult lives. This mine could put an end to various species that call this river home. I don't see anything worth destroying this fragile ecosystem. Please consider the future generations, the animals who live in and around this river, and the true cost that will result from this mine.

Thank you again for your consideration. I know that this is just one comment from a college student, but I hope in some ways it makes a difference.