Data Submitted (UTC 11): 10/29/2020 1:53:12 AM
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Title:
Comments: The South Fork of the Salmon River as it currently exists resonates with so many individuals across the state and around the world. It provides critical spawning habitat for endangered salmon and steelhead. It also harbors a robust population of Bull Trout, which are a threatened species. At one point it, the SFSR produced the largest Chinook salmon in the entire Columbia River watershed. Native Americans have been inhabiting the watershed for thousands of years. The South Fork of the Salmon River also offers world class whitewater.

It would be a shame to see thousands of pounds of arsenic stored in the headwaters of the drainage that could flow downstream to such places as Riggins and Lewiston. It would be a shame to see over 13,000 acres of public land rendered inaccessible during the 20 year project life cycle. It would be a shame to see this project go through when a more rigorous environmental review is required given the significance of the SFSR and its tributaries to various species, groups of people, and the landscape itself.

I was granted the opportunity to float down the South Fork of the Salmon River in October last year in my kayak and it was the one of the most memorable experiences of my life. Many of my peers have said the same of their own experiences either floating down or exploring on foot the watershed.

Please do not proceed with this Midas Stibnite Gold Project until a more robust environmental review has taken place.