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Organization:
Title:
Comments: As a whitewater kayaker and wilderness lover from nearby Montana, I am asking you to preserve one of the best and most pristine river systems in the lower 48 by choosing Alternative 5, the No Action Alternative for the Stibnite Gold Project's Draft Environmental Impact Statement. I am asking this as a concerned public landowner who has run the "wilderness" section of the SF Salmon four times and also run the EF and SF Salmon. The quality of these rivers is unmatched in the US, and I want to make sure this experience will be available for future generations. Historically, the environmental record on metal mines in the western US is abysmal--I say this as a former resident of Butte, Montana. Typically, mines adversely affect the surrounding streams and the companies that make the profits ultimately abandon them and leave the clean-up to the taxpayers. And, usually the water cannot be cleaned up at any cost. Do you want to take that chance with the SF Salmon? All so some corporation can make a profit? And on gold, which has little use other than as a filling of a rich person's vault? The really rare commodity here is the wild character of the SF Salmon River.

The DEIS clearly states the other alternatives, apart from Alternative 5, would adversely affect federally listed endangered fish species, their habitat, and the watershed's water quality and quantity. It is incredibly important to me personally that the Forest Service protect the outstanding water quality of this major tributary to the Wild and Scenic Salmon River, as this river system is vitally important for native and endangered fish, outdoor recreation, and the economic vitality of the local communities that surround it. Moving forward with this project would not only adversely impact my personal enjoyment of this public resource through whitewater paddling, camping and fishing, it would negatively impact all of the people of Idaho who rely on the hundreds of thousands of visitors each year to our National Forests.

The South Fork Salmon River is finally healing from the scars of past mining activity, and the impacts of expanded mining activity represents an unacceptable risk to this watershed.