

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 10/29/2020 4:50:18 AM

First name: Jeffrey

Last name: Venturino

Organization:

Title:

Comments: Dear USFS,

My name is Jeff Venturino. I'm a Davis, California-based whitewater paddler, ACA Level 4 Whitewater instructor, and frequent traveler for whitewater paddling. Last year I paddled 120 days of the year, and this year am on track to do many tens of days paddling despite navigating safe whitewater recreation in the middle of a pandemic. Every trip I participate in requires paying for gas locally, food locally, ice locally, and supporting local tourism. I've bought local crafts for Christmas gifts in Idaho, socks in Washington, and frequently strive to stimulate the local economics of areas where I visit to paddle. The Stibnite Gold Mine will severely damage the access, habitat, and pristine nature of the South Fork Salmon. It will negatively impact the number of recreational visits to the South Fork Salmon, access, and the wilderness characteristics of the river. With the Stibnite Gold Mine, I will likely choose not to visit the South Fork Salmon. Rural Idaho communities need this tourism money. The DEIS does not accurately capture tourism money. Moreover, it clearly defines several negative impacts on the local environment which would be catastrophic for the river ecosystem and all downstream communities. I strongly urge you to reconsider any further progress toward actualization of this tragedy of an extraction project.

The South Fork Salmon cannot support this mine. The river cannot support this mine. The fish cannot, and by extension the Nez Perce tribe cannot sustain this mine. Please reject the application.

Jeff Venturino

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