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Comments: To the responsible official,

I live far from the South Salmon River, but I have heard a great deal from many boater friends about this river as a standout among the whitewater rivers that we love. The South Salmon is a river that is unique in that it holds boatable flows much of the year as an intermediate difficulty run and at high water turns into a run that expert boaters travel great distances to visit. The intrinsic value of a whitewater river that forms long rapids with overhead-high waves is an outstandingly remarkable value. The United States has already sacrificed many great rivers to dam-building and watershed degradation through clear-cutting and mining. Remaining treasures such as the South Salmon should be safeguarded for the enjoyment of future generations.

Gold mine companies will tell you all about the jobs that they may create in the extraction. These jobs are of short-term value while the impacts to the river are long-term. Gold mine companies will tell you all about the mitigation to contain pollutants... but we have seen this go wrong many times over, as recently as 2015 when a mine in the watershed of the Animas River upstream of Durango Colorado spilled waste into the river causing it to be so contaminated that the entire waterfront had to be forcibly closed and the seasonal rafting industry and those who depend on it missed out on their main source of income.

Gold is over. Gold is an anachronism. We no longer need gold to back currencies. The small amounts needed in electronics and other uses can be provided with the world's existing supply of gold. What is becoming increasingly scarce and of real value are the few remaining wild places such as the South Salmon.

The question here is whether a few should profit in the short term by mining or whether the many will benefit in the long term by keeping the South Salmon unspoiled.

Humbly,

Edward "Taylor" Cavin