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First name: Brian

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Organization:

Title:

Comments: To the associated parties,

I have spent the previous 2/3 of my life embracing the natural world and its benefits from the vantage point of a human powered watercraft. These experiences have allowed me to slow down, to enhance a greater appreciation for the presence of truly wild environments.

Though my recent chapters have existed in Great Lakes region and its surrounding areas, I was gifted with an experience in the Frank Church Wilderness in the spring of 2019 and it further enhanced my perspective on co-existence with wild places. The ability to experience an environment as it has existed in its most simplistic state is truly a priceless experience.

While corporations can make short term gains for mineral/ metal extraction the scars their efforts bestow upon the land degrade the experience for generations. Without true connection to natural areas, we endanger those momentous connections to our environment for future generations.

Thinking upon this relationship with the land, and having seen first hand the detriment of this relationship to natural areas which have favored short term gain vs long term preservation, I can not in good conscience support any projects that would impact the South Fork of the Salmon watershed. Without the existence of truly wild places, we lose our connection to the land, the ability to preserve natural cycles and dare I imply the true connection to our past.

I urge you to commit to keeping this place wild. To promote the simple existence of this place and the benefits it will provide to the natural world, cycles and processes we are meant to appreciate at the most simplistic level. Short term gain will not offset the long-term loss, should this become a plausible mining hub. Nature enthusiasts will visit for decades, perhaps centuries down the line, while mineral extraction will cause copious detriment in proportion to the time it ravages the land.

Please keep the South Salmon Wild. Preserve this gem of the West and let us experience the wild for generations down the line.

Thank you for taking the time to read and make a difference for our future.

Sincerely,

Brian Castillo