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Organization:

Title:

Comments: I am sending this letter to voice my disapproval of the Stibnite Gold Project. My family has owned a cabin in the direct vicinity of this project for 3 generations. Having spent nearly every summer of my life in this area, I feel a deep connection to it. I recognize what a truly special place the South Fork of the Salmon River is. Some of my fondest memories can be found on the banks of the South Fork of the Salmon and its various tributaries, like the EFSF and Johnson Creek. The connection to this water is generational. My dad taught me how to fly fish on these streams, the same streams that his dad taught him to fly fish on when he was a child. Since I was a kid, I have spent countless days on the South Fork and its tributaries, fly fishing for Idaho's native trout species. This is not just an enjoyment of the past, but one that I look forward to every summer. My experience as an angler has only deepened my connection to this area.

The natural beauty seen in this watershed is extremely precious and should be treasured as the rare gem that it is. The streams run gin clear and are inhabited by native populations of Westslope Cutthroat Trout and Bull Trout. Bull Trout are listed as a threatened species according to the Endangered Species Act. The South Fork of the Salmon River drainage is also home to Chinook Salmon and Steelhead runs. The drainage is recognized as critical habitat for the endangered Chinook Salmon and Steelhead and the threatened Bull Trout. In a time when a host of factors are causing native populations to face peril, we must do our best to protect them at all costs. The Stibnite Gold Project will do the exact opposite, putting already fragile populations at severe risk.

Placed on the headwaters of this drainage, the Stibnite Gold Project will permanently damage fish habitat and water quality. The hard rock mining industry is one of largest producers of toxic waste in the US. A 2017 report by Earthworks found that amongst 27 operating gold mines in the US, 100 percent reported at least one pipeline spill or other accidental release. With three open pit mines and millions of tons of toxic sludge being held by an earth dam, the chance of contamination is extremely high. The question is not likely if there will be a contaminant release, but rather when the contaminant release will happen. The reward is simply not worth the inevitable environmental impacts of the proposed project.

With this all being said, I ask of you to extend the public comment period for the Stibnite Gold Project Supplemental Draft Environmental Impact Statement to 120 days, instead of 75. I want to continue to enjoy this wild and scenic area for the rest of my life. I want my future kids to experience this area in all of its fullness as well. I dream of teaching my children to fly fish here as my father taught me, and his father taught him. I fear this will not be a possibility with the presence of this mine.

Thank you for taking the time to read this.