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Comments: I grew up and lived in McCall for 25 years and I have a doctorate in Environmental Science and certification in environmental toxicology. I used to work for the Fish and game on the South Fork of the Salmon early in my career checking Salmon catch and later worked for the USFS in the heritage department and we surveyed much of Stibnite mine for cultural resources. That is an incredible river and many people including the Shoshone Bannock Tribes, the Nez Perce Tribes and the State of Idaho fisherman, and Fish and Game have worked hard to bring back steelhead and salmon populations and maintain a fishery on this river. I conducted research for the University of Idaho on the social and cultural significance of that fishery for both tribal and non-tribal populations through hundreds of interviews with Idahoans and Tribal members. I cannot overstate how important that river and fishery are to uphold treaty rights (which the USFS is mandated to uphold) , cultural practices, and spiritual continuity for the Shoshone Bannock in particular but also for the Nez Perce Tribe. It is also very important to Idaho fisherman. That fishery is one of the most inland for Salmon and the only reason they are able to return at all is due to the quality of the habitat. Our good Idaho habitat is an amazing legacy of Idaho's foresight in protecting land and land uses in the headwaters of the entire Columbia River system. Our inland fisheries at the headwaters are critical genetic banks for some of the last remaining salmon populations that are so resilient to make it bak to the headwaters--these cool waters are critical for surviving climate change impacts.

The SFSR ecosystem once was a thriving home for steelhead, salmon, bull trout, and cutthroat trout, all now dwindling towards extinction. The SFSR still supports a remnant assemblage of these 4 species. This is not only rare, it is a testimony to the SF's resilience, if only allowed. The SF is a linchpin for these fish, and deserves our best stewardship.

The SDEIS claims irreversible losses to all of these species. Impacts to fish come from many different sources, including direct loss of habitat, increased stream temperatures, and hazardous spill risk. (SDEIS p. 4-386).

If you walk through Stibnite mine, as I did as an employee of the USFS, the damage on that site is irreparable--even after millions of dollars of investment in "cleaning it up". I completely reject the premise that this proposal is going to improve that site up that it is even morally acceptable in this day and age of climate change and fisheries on the brink of extinction in this watershed to allow for any mining at all. This proposed mine will exacerbate decline of an already fragile ecosystem and create great harm for centuries. We will forever lose this fishery and eliminate one of the only remaining Salmon fisheries for the Shoshone Bannock Tribes.

The Forest Service should choose the No-Action Alternative. You are stewards of this public land. You are representatives of the federal government who entered into treaties with sovereign nations to always, in perpetuity, provide access to their traditional food gathering sites and cultural practices. Do your job and be good moral stewards of this incredible resource you are so lucky to "manage" and grant use rights for.

The Forest Service should reject the proposed mine plan because it:

Violates the Payette and Boise Forest Land Resource Management Plans

Fails to minimize all adverse environmental impacts, thus violating 2 federal laws - the Federal Land Policy and Management Act and the Organic Act

Violates the Clean Water Act

Conflicts with established Treaty Rights

Violates the Endangered Species Act

Thank you for your time. Please do the right thing. It is imperative.