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Comments: To Whom it Concerns,

I appreciate the opportunity to comment on this project as a private citizen concerned with the impacts this mine will have on the ecological, economic, and social function that is supported by the South Fork of the Salmon River.

You will undoubtedly receive many letters expressing the importance of this stretch of river to Idaho's whitewater economy. At the human level, the South Fork is indeed a place where personal development and topophilia has occurred across scales for thousands of individuals.

We live in a time of great challenge and necessary change. Are short-term economic gains really worth the ecological (and inseparable economic) degradation?

Look at Lake CDA for example. What was once a thriving aquatic ecosystem is (despite the beauty at the surface) now a toxic time bomb waiting to erode the real estate, recreation, and cultural values of one of the state's most beloved lakes. With warming temperatures and toxic algal blooms looming, the heavy metals contained in the sediments in the lake are only exacerbating an ongoing human and ecological crisis in North Idaho. The profits from mining upstream have come and gone, and now the state is left with a complex problem that has no easy solution.

I implore you to consider not just the immediate cultural and economic ripples this mine would create, but also what it means for the future of what it means to be an Idahoan. We must act in the best interest of the natural resources that sustain Idaho communities.

Water quality and human wellbeing are inextricably linked; there's no way around it. Regardless of our differences, Idahoans (and your downstream neighbors) need clean flowing aquatic ecosystems to thrive both today and as we march into the future.

Thank you for your time and consideration.