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First name: Payton Last name: Betz Organization:

Title:

Comments: As someone who cares deeply about the South Fork Salmon river and the health of Idaho's beautiful landscape, I'm writing to the Forest Service to uphold their mission to "sustain the health, diversity, and productivity of the Nation's forests and grasslands to meet the needs of present and future generations." The proposed Stibnite gold mine project would be very detrimental to the area's wildlife, plants and water quality. This project impacts an area where recreation is of high interest and is important for tribal communities. Even with the reclamation efforts in place, the land site will bear the scars and damage will last for generations forward. Currently the South Fork Salmon is known for its clear waters, but with the construction of roads and mining techniques the river may become contaminated. The effects of this mine not only impact water quality, but directly affect salmon whose numbers are already threatened. Being adjacent to the Frank Church Wilderness, shy animals such as wolverines, bighorn sheep and lynx will have habitat loss and a change of migratory patterns. To stop the negative impacts that this mine would have on the land and animals, the Forest Service needs to put a final end on the detrimental gold mine project.