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First name: Carmen

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Organization:

Title:

Comments: To the US Forest Service,

I would like to go on record that I absolutely oppose the permitting of the Stibnite Mine in the Salmon River watershed. Hard rock mining has a long history since the early gold rush times of being destructive and extremely detrimental to a healthy ecosystem. The mining companies make many promises and ending up leaving a mess and ultimately the American people are left with the cleanup bill. Mining is especially toxic with the use of cyanide leach ponds. We don't need more gold mines. We need more roadless areas, wilderness that is not fragmented, and habitat protected from noise and light pollution. We have many more people out exploring our wild areas now. Our wild lands need to be protected

My parents lived in the Sierra Nevada foothills for 17 years. I visited them frequently. The areas near their home in Columbia had unusual rock (mostly marble) formations without much soil from the gold rush days when hydraulic mining was used. Scrubby brush and poison oak grew in between the rock in some of the areas. Those lands never recovered, still scarred in 2000 from mining done in 1850's.

Please protect this area of the Salmon River from mining so future generations can enjoy it.

Respectfully,

Carmen Northen