

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 1/9/2023 11:09:33 PM

First name: Izzy

Last name: Lidsky

Organization:

Title:

Comments: "The reality is that almost all mines of this size end up polluting water supplies with cyanide, diesel fuel, or other contaminants. The headwaters of the East Fork South Fork Salmon River, and its importance to salmon recovery, are far too valuable to be placed in jeopardy at the expense of a profit driven gold mine.

The Nez Perce Tribe, Forest Service, and EPA have already invested millions of dollars to address the pollution at Stibnite, and had secured millions more for further efforts, before the claims were purchased by (then) Midas Gold. This process would not happen overnight, but the desire and initiative to clean up the site without the risk of additional long term damage must be explored.

"The notion that it will take a mine, and mining dollars, to clean up this site is irrational. Over \$75 million has been spent in the Lemhi Valley on conservation projects and salmon recovery to date. Many of the funding streams for these projects are applicable to the Stibnite area, especially for fish recovery," said Nic Nelson, Executive Director, Idaho Rivers United.

In addition to the serious concerns regarding stream temperature increase, heavy metal contamination, and general harm to ESA listed species, this project also will result in a restriction of public access to over 14,000 acres during the 20-year lifespan of the mine and subsequent restoration." - Idaho Rivers United

Furthermore, the Salmon is such a special place to paddlers, fisherman, anyone who has enjoyed recreating in the Frank Church. To permanently change/destroy this place would be a humungous loss not only environmentally but to one of the most pristine bits of land in North America. In an age where that's hard to come by, it is absolutely worth protecting every bit of wilderness we have left.