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Title:

Comments: I would like to strongly encourage the USFS to not grant the permit to the proposed Stibnite Gold Mine. The South Fork of the Salmon River is too important, too special to risk to this proposal. The value of this watershed for fish, clean water, recreation, wildlife habitat and wilderness is immense. The damage and contamination from a long history of mining in Idaho is clear and this plan does not have enough safe guards to make this a good plan. We need mining but not this mine in this place. Here are some of my concerns-

1. What will be the effects of transporting many needed loads of hazardous chemicals and materials for this cyanide leach mine? Which route will be used (Boise? Cascade? McCall? Weiser?), none of these highways are good routes to mix these hazardous loads with existing mixed traffic on our less than ideal Idaho highways. How will new roads be constructed without negatively impacting wild areas and delicate mountain areas in our rugged climate and topography?
2. How will fish be protected from possible spills, loss of habitat, and other impacts during construction of roads and facilities and ongoing mine operation? Waiting for the time for remediation and clean up is just too long for our imperiled fisheries. Idaho has such a wonderful legacy of top quality of fisheries, hunting, and outdoor recreation opportunities, it would be a tragedy to put it at risk.
3. Mining can be a dusty operation with the possibility of contamination of air, water, and soils, how will these be monitored, protected, and possibly remediated?
4. Our changing climate is having a large impact on Idaho, this added pressure on ecosystems does not seem to be well addressed by the planning for this project.

This seems like a project that has too many flaws that could lead to serious negative impacts on this special and highly sensitive area. The risks are just too high to allow this open pit mine to be allowed. Sincerely, Pam Gomes