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Organization:

Title:

Comments: The South Fork of the Salmon is incredibly important to chinook salmon, bull trout, and steelhead populations. I am sure you are well aware of the importance of fish for humans as well as ecosystems. I learned this first hand last summer as a member of Idaho Fish and Games snorkel crew survey team. We snorkelled streams and rivers in Idaho based out of McCall and singlehandedly, this river was the most populated we had seen with chinook. There were some pools that we came up to that had over 14 wild chinook salmon, one of the most beautiful things I had ever seen. We must protect them rather than choosing to continue extracting gold. Their populations are already so hindered by dams, overfishing, pollution, loss of habitat, and climate change. Not only that, but this area is so important to recreational and indigenous anglers like the Nez Perce who use it as a food source and recreational site. I was blown away by the amount the anglers I spoke to cared about the fish and river. Please do not further hinder the salmon and those that depend on them, we should be working to restore and not diminish. This mine will significantly impact so many people who rely on this river and the fish in them.

Although this area has been impacted by historical mining, we do not need a new mine to restore it. I oppose allowing the Stibnite Gold Project to proceed as proposed because it will cause irreversible harm to water quality, wildlife, public health, and a sustainable outdoor recreation-based economy and pollute the area for generations to come. This project needs to be significantly revised or stopped.