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Comments: This mine proposal represents the exact opposite of the kind of forward-thinking investments we need to be making in biodiversity strongholds like the Salmon River watershed right now. No matter which way you slice it, this project will harm regional and national security over the short and long hauls. Who benefits? A scant few individuals poised to make a killing, with negligible incentives to act or reinvest responsibly. Who loses? Beyond local Idaho economies that serve recreational users, a long list of communities and industries throughout the pnw depend on the S Fork Salmon for healthy salmon populations, biodiversity, and the critical ecosystem services they provide. The math just doesn't add up; this project would amount to legalized theft and is mired in 20th-century thinking that has consistently failed our communities, security, and wellbeing.

Allowing the Stibnite Gold Project to move ahead will set us all back over the short and long hauls. I urge all involved to block its passage and instead focus on mechanisms to bring in equivalent (or likely greater and more sustained) regional income via economic valuation and shared responsibility for these critical ecosystem services.