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Organization:

Title:

Comments: Dear Forest Supervisor Jackson,

As an environmental science student who fell in love with my discipline thanks to the rivers of Idaho and the rest of the Inland Northwest, I have concerns about the Stibnite gold mine that I would like to share. First among them is the impact on local ecosystems. Much of my work and the work of my professors and colleagues is on restoring the Snake River's salmon populations after significant disturbances thanks to damming and mining operations in the area. Without considering the risks of the Stibnite plan more consistently, I fear that the government's substantial investments in our research would go to waste as the Inland Northwest continues to destroy its scenic, identifiable biodiversity.

However, more to the point, I worry for part of the Inland Northwest's identity being eliminated. The possibility of contamination and the certainty of inefficient, untested fish ladder technology could decimate the already-threatened chinook, steelhead, and bull trout species I grew up adoring. These are icons of Idaho culture and recreation (not to mention economy) that justify a closer look at the impact statements of the Stibnite gold mine.

Finally, I am also concerned about the threat that the Stibnite mine poses to the sovereignty of the Nez Perce tribe. As a nation, keeping our treaties with other nations is part of what proves our honor and right to our own freedom. I hope that this letter and others like it prompt you to reconsider the implications of the Stibnite operation on the Nez Perce's treaty land and their access to food and ceremonial sites. Restricting the freedom of another nation just because we believe we have a right to the gold their land possesses is undemocratic and unjust.

Please reject the proposed Stibnite mine plan. The Salmon River means a lot to me, and I'm not even the person who cares about it most.