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First name: Susan Last name: Washko Organization:

Title:

Comments: I am opposed to the Stibnite Gold Project. As a river recreation enthusiast, I believe the mining project will significantly degrade folks' experiences on the Salmon River. Water pollution, disturbance of bull trout habitat, a noisy eyesore of a pit mine, and air quality concerns are just a few of the reasons why I am opposed to the Stibnite project. The Supplemental DEIS details how trout habitat will be degraded, how hazardous waste materials will be transported in high-risk areas, and how waste material will enter the river system via an open-pit cyanide vat leach mine. Any restoration and mitigation that would occur would not measure up to the pristine wilderness that currently exists. As an Arizona resident (who works seasonally in western Colorado), the Gold King Mine spill of 2015 is still a pervasive memory and continues to affect cultural and recreational resources today. I want to prevent this type of disaster from happening in the Salmon drainage by limiting the amount of mining that occurs. The mining company needs to prioritize wilderness conservation, wildlife movement, local fisheries, and water quality (both surface and ground water) in their designs. Additionally, thorough monitoring of the air and water quality should occur to protect recreators and wildlife. There is already enough mining in the Salmon drainage, and I urge you to stop this project before it harms the precious public lands we all share.