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First name: Austin

Last name: Woody

Organization:

Title:

Comments: To whom it may concern,

I'm writing to express my opposition to the proposed Stibnite Gold Project.

Since my first Main Salmon float trip with my family in 1993 as a 9 year old boy, I've been fortunate enough to make frequent trips to Idaho to float, fish and camp within various drainages of the Salmon River. Now, as a 39 year old man, I still enjoy travelling to the area to participate in the same activities. The South Fork of the Salmon and its various tributaries have become some of my favorite areas to visit anywhere in the United States, and I look forward to doing so for decades to come.

My travels to the Frank Church Wilderness area and adjacent areas have impressed upon me just how unique these wild lands and river systems are within an ever growing US population and demand for natural resources. While I'm sure mine engineers offer assurances about the safety and stability of their activities, one doesn't have to look very far into the past to find examples of how engineering judgement overlooked or underestimated risks and potential circumstances to disastrous ends. I'm sure I don't have to explain how river systems to anyone reading this letter, but the fact that this proposed mine lies at the headwaters of the East Fork of the South Fork of the Salmon River places countless downstream miles of rivers and acres of untrammelled wild lands in peril should anything go wrong upstream.

As a native of Wyoming and a former Forest Service Employee myself, I thoroughly understand and support the agency's multiple use mandate. However, when a proposed use and the short-term profits of a few threatens to compromise the resource quality and ability of the general public to enjoy their public lands for centuries to come, the weighing of these uses is an obvious choice.

I respectfully ask you to please oppose the Stibnite Gold Project and protect this irreplaceable resource.

Thanks for reading,
Austin Woody
Laramie, Wyoming