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Comments: I have lived in Idaho for six years now, originally coming to Idaho to attend Boise State University as an undergrad. One of the main reasons I chose to attend college in Boise and why I still choose to live here is because of the bountiful outdoor opportunities throughout the entire state. I quickly fell in love with all that Idaho had to offer, and have many fond memories from time spent in the great Idaho outdoors. While I was in school I didn't have that much time to explore far outside of Boise, but since graduating, exploring-camping, hiking, backpacking, rafting-through the rest of Idaho has been a priority for me.

When I heard about the proposal to reopen the Stibnite mine, I was immediately concerned. Idaho is home to rugged wilderness not found in much of the US, and is one of the prime areas in the Northwest for rafting, fishing, and camping. All of these activities would be threatened by reopening this mine, and on a personal level, I worry about my ability to be able to explore this area of the state if the mine reopens.

I have read multiple publications citing the dangers of reopening this mine, including the negative impact on endangered fish species (and all wildlife) that call the nearby watershed home, restrictions on recreation in the area for the public, and limitations on access to traditional lands for indigenous peoples. Furthermore, there is the increased risk of toxins in the water, nearby air, and throughout the entire transportation route, making the impact of this mine much further than just the area the mine occupies.

In a state where public lands are of great importance to its people and where outdoor recreation is something people from all backgrounds can rally around, opening this mine seems to be in direct opposition of both the people of Idaho and the species that call this region home. For these reasons, I urge the Forest Service to protect the Salmon River watershed and reject the proposed Stibnite mine plan.