

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 1/10/2023 10:32:27 PM

First name: Jordyn

Last name: Neerdaels

Organization:

Title:

Comments: Hello Forest Service,

I am a born and raised Idahoan and a proud user of our beautiful national forests and public lands. I have been an avid rafter almost all of my life with some of my fondest memories growing up being the times spent on the Salmon River rafting with my family.

This is something I enjoy and treasure to this day. My husband and I spend as much of our summers as we can along the Salmon and its tributaries, including the South Fork of the Salmon. Along with rafting and kayaking, we highly-value the endless opportunities the South Fork Watershed provides us to enjoy botanizing, birding, hunting, and backpacking. The pristine habitat, river conditions, and surrounding landscape is what makes the Salmon River watershed world-renowned and an invaluable resource currently and even more so in the future. I hope to one-day take our family members and future children through these same waters so they too can see this wild place and experience the second longest free-flowing river in the lower 48. I hope the native fish populations are still thriving and that our decisions now lead to a stronger, healthier ecosystem instead of its decline.

I am writing to you to implore that you do not approve the Stibnite Gold Project and choose the no-action alternative. The following reasons are why the Forest Service should not approve this project.

1. Fails to minimize all adverse environmental impacts, thus violating 2 federal laws - the Federal Land Policy and Management Act and the Organic Act
2. Violates the Clean Water Act
3. Conflicts with established Treaty Rights
4. Violates the Endangered Species Act
5. Fails to provide evidence that Perpetua's mining claims are legally valid
6. Violates the Payette and Boise Forest Land Resource Management Plans

The health and safety of this ecosystem is too important to our state, its people and residents, and its future. Despite a long history of extensive logging, road building, and mining that have impacted the river's health, it continues to boast critically important spawning habitat for migratory fish. Recognizing this importance, Federal agencies, tribes, and other organizations have expended significant efforts to improve the ecological health of the watershed. The South Fork Salmon watershed is indeed a cornerstone in ongoing efforts to restore threatened Chinook salmon and steelhead to Idaho. Its continued success and protection is of the highest importance to a resident and avid user of the area.

Thank you for your consideration.

Jordyn Neerdaels