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Comments: I currently live in Southern Oregon, but I am originally from southwestern PA. In the past few decades, I have watched friends' drinking water go bad in PA and WV from ill-advised mining projects that prioritized the interests of private out of town companies over the health of residents and natural areas. The clear creeks I played in as a child are now a cloudy grey and devoid of the critters that we used to enjoy seeing.

Here in the West, I am frequently astounded to hear of mining proposals, especially in areas where there has been considerable effort to restore and preserve ecosystems. The West represents the last areas of pristine wilderness and clean rivers that we must protect for all who come after us.

A mining project on the SF Salmon flies in the face of the decades of effort and sums of money that have gone into restoring these pristine waters and fisheries. The fish native to these waters need all the habitat that they can get, and mining projects have consistently shown to permanently degrade habitat quality and imperish water resources all over the country.

Quality freshwater supplies all over the world are dwindling, and our fish populations are falling precipitously. Preserved fishery habitat plays a key role in protecting and bolstering the populations that remain.

Extractables industries would do well to focus on how they can redirect waste streams rather than on how they can further degrade the dwindling natural areas. Rivers are the veins and arteries that ecosystems supporting human life depend on. Only deep hubris allows us to imagine otherwise.

It is my dearest hope that the children of our country will be left with Chinook Salmon, drinkable water, and wilderness to commune with.

Mining on the SF salmon? Absolutely not. I will not tolerate it.