Data Submitted (UTC 11): 10/8/2024 6:20:18 PM
First name: Peter
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Organization:
Title:
Comments: I am strongly opposed to the Stibnite mine and any mining in the headwaters of the South Fork of the Salmon River. You would not scrape off the ceiling of the Sistine Chapel to mine the lead from the paint. Similarly, the South Fork of the Salmon River is nature's Michelangelo. I have had the opportunity and privilege to visit this area many times over the past 30 years. It is a gem worth more than the gold that will be extracted from this mine. We need some minerals that come from mining, but there are more appropriate places than this proposal by a private mining company which spoils our valuable public lands for their own profit.

As a former fisheries biologist, I am very concerned about the impact to fish species, especially the Chinook Salmon that are the namesake of this incredible river. The Stibnite project endangers more than fish and other aquatic species. It also endangers terrestrial species like white bark pine and wolverine. There will be massive amounts of mining waste. The poor quality of the gold ore will require cyanide to process. The transportation routes expose vast areas in the watershed to contaminants. Located in the sensitive headwaters of the East Fork of the South Fork, the risk to the South Fork and Main Salmon downstream is too high.

Please do not approve this dangerous and reckless venture.

Thank you,
Peter Pressly, Ph.D.