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Organization:

Title:

Comments: The South Fork of the Salmon watershed needs to be protected from the preposterously dangerous proposal to dig an open pit mine under the riverbed.

I have worked as a backcountry guide in central Idaho for 25 years, and appreciate the South Fork Salmon as particularly important to Idaho - for its ecological function, recreational opportunities, and economic contribution. It should not be a sacrifice zone.

Specifically,

- no fish spawning habitat should be impaired. At a time when salmon populations are already critically compromised, burying streams under mining waste or polluting them with heavy metals should be a non-starter.
- any proposal needs to account for the unfortunately likely event that Midas, like its many predecessors, defaults on its obligations to permanently and completely restore the site. Please do not leave us with yet another permanent pollution site where we once had a functioning ecosystem
- the public should not subsidize Midas's activities, including its clean-up.

Thank you for your diligence in caretaking our public lands for future generations.