

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 10/28/2020 6:00:00 AM

First name: Evan

Last name: Stafford

Organization: American Whitewater

Title: National Stewardship Director

Comments: Dear Supervisor Jackson,

Attached is a set of individual comment letters, form plus letters, and form letter signatories collected by American Whitewater (a national non-profit 501(c)(3) river conservation organization) from our members and community regarding the Stibnite Gold Project Draft Environmental Impact Statement. These individuals have entrusted American Whitewater with delivering their important public input on this project and many of these form plus and comment letters contain substantive formal comments as defined by the Forest Service. These letters should be counted and entered into the public record individually. Individual addresses and other contact information are included with each comment and they were created uniquely by these individual persons. There should be no question as to the nature of these comments, and that despite their delivery method, these individual comments must be counted, considered, and numbered as such.

Judging by the number and substance of the comments we collected, our community cares deeply about the public lands in Idaho for which the Forest Service is entrusted with managing, and they have well articulated concerns about the significant impacts of this project in the South Fork Salmon watershed. We received 2,316 form letter signatories, 777 form plus and comment letters, and have also included a number of stories about recreating in the South Fork Salmon basin. This is 30 times the number of comments we have normally collected during an average project draft environmental impact statement public input period. The form plus letters included in this document are not from a "special interest group," they are from concerned individuals who cherish and recreate on the public lands your office is tasked with managing, and many contain substantive comments that are within the scope of the proposal, have a direct relationship to the proposal, and include supporting reasons for the responsible official to consider. All 3,093 of these comment letters express support for Alternative 5, the No Action Alternative and should also be counted as such. For American Whitewater's organizational comments, please see our separate comment letter also submitted electronically. Thank you.

[Attachment included 2,316 petition signers for the following letter:]

As an individual who values the rivers and spectacular whitewater resources of Idaho, I am writing to support Alternative 5, the No Action Alternative outlined in the Stibnite Gold Project's Draft Environmental Impact Statement. I am not writing representing a "special interest group," I am writing as a concerned citizen and stakeholder who utilizes these public lands in their current undiminished state, lands for which I am an owner of and for which the Forest Service is directed to manage in the public interest. The rivers of the South Fork Salmon watershed contain world class whitewater that paddlers from across the country and the world travel to Idaho to visit.

The DEIS clearly states that all of the alternatives presented, apart from Alternative 5, would adversely affect federally listed endangered fish species, their habitat, and the watershed's water quality and quantity. It is incredibly important to me personally that the Forest Service protect the outstanding water quality of this major tributary to the Wild and Scenic Salmon River, as this river system is vitally important for native and endangered fish, outdoor recreation, and the economic vitality of the local communities that surround it. Moving forward with this project would not only adversely impact my personal enjoyment of this public resource through whitewater paddling, camping and fishing, it would negatively impact all of the people of Idaho who rely on the hundreds of

thousands of visitors each year to our National Forests.

The South Fork Salmon River is finally healing from the scars of past mining activity, and the impacts of expanded mining activity represents an unacceptable risk to this watershed. Thank you for your consideration.

[In addition, the attachment included 839 comment letters, of those, 751 were Form Plus or Unique letters. Below is the unique or 'plus' portion of the letters (excluding background and introductory statements)]

The South Fork Salmon is quite possibly my favorite whitewater run in North America. Protecting it's water quality and value as a healthy river with exceptional recreation quality is very important to me. As an individual who values the rivers and spectacular whitewater resources across Idaho, I am writing to support Alternative 5, the No Action Alternative outlined in the Stibnite Gold Project's Draft Environmental Impact Statement. I am not writing representing a "special interest group," I am writing as a concerned citizen and stakeholder who utilizes these public lands in their current undiminished state, lands for which I am an owner of and for which the Forest Service is directed to manage in the public interest. The DEIS clearly states that all of the alternatives presented, apart from Alternative 5, would adversely affect federally listed endangered fish species, their habitat, and the watershed's water quality and quantity. The rivers of the South Fork Salmon watershed contain world class whitewater that paddlers from across the country and the world travel to Idaho to visit. It is incredibly important to me personally that the Forest Service protect the outstanding water quality of this major tributary to the Wild and Scenic Salmon River, as this river system is vitally important for native and endangered fish, outdoor recreation, and the economic vitality of the local communities that surround it. Moving forward with this project would not only adversely impact my personal enjoyment of this public resource through whitewater paddling, camping and fishing, it would negatively impact all of the people of Idaho who rely on the hundreds of thousands of visitors each year to our National Forests. The South Fork Salmon River is finally healing from the scars of past mining activity, and the impacts of expanded mining activity represents an unacceptable risk to this watershed. I would hate to see it changed or damaged due to mining.

"Furthermore, as someone who has paddled this river I can personally attest to the truly outstanding natural beauty of this place. I understand that there is a legitimate need for resource extraction, but this is unequivocally not it. In addition to the guaranteed dire environmental impact to this river and watershed, all mines financially play out leaving the taxpayers once again to foot the bill of restoring this river, twice!

Economically it has been shown time and again that there is far greater benefit in having a sustainable industry based around outdoor recreation, which already exists in this region.

I am an person who loves and values the rivers and spectacular whitewater resources of Idaho. I am writing as a concerned citizen and stakeholder who utilizes these public lands in their current state and wants to make sure they are not damaged or used anymore than they already are. The DEIS clearly states that all of the alternatives presented, apart from Alternative 5, would adversely affect the Salmon that are federally listed endangered fish species, their habitat, and the watershed's water quality and quantity. . Thank you for your time and consideration.

. The affects of a mine upstream of this watershed will have dramatic affects on the fish, wildlife, and recreational well-being of this river with literal downstream impacts. This is a special river that deserves the protection of the forest service.

I have spent time on the South Fork Salmon and hope to continue with pristine conditions. .

I have been visiting the South Fork of the Salmon River and vicinity for over 20 years. It represents one of the last truly wild places in the lower 48 and holds both remarkable whitewater recreational activities and wildlife habitat (specifically fish), both resources that I highly value. Each year I spend a significant amount of money in the local economy in pursuit of these resources. It is clear that apart from Alternative 5, all other alternatives would adversely affect federally listed endangered fish species, their habitat, and the watershed's water quality and quantity. I urge you to choose the long term sustainability of this ecosystem over the short term gains of this potentially destructive mining operation. It is worth noting that I understand the need for domestic mining operations, this risk to this particular watershed is just too great.

I do not anticipate visiting this section of River if this project is approved. The South Fork Salmon River is finally healing from the scars of past mining activity, and the impacts of the proposed mining activity represents an unacceptable risk to this watershed.

If there was ever a horrible place for a gold mine, here it is. Surrounded by hundreds of miles of undeveloped, mostly untouched country. Way high in the water shed so if it there is (inevitable), the whole thing goes down the shitter. I personally raft the Southfork of the Salmon every year. It is the best whitewater run in the state. More demanding than the big 4 and a sense of solitude such as you can not find on any river anywhere else in Idaho. Please draw the line by doing everything in your power to send these money grubbers back to Canada. ., .

The South Fork of the Salmon contains incredibly pristine and challenging whitewater that I traveled to Idaho all the way from Arkansas to experience this past summer. The Forest Service should protect the outstanding water quality of this major tributary to the Wild and Scenic Salmon River. This river system is important for native and endangered fish, outdoor recreation, and the economic vitality of the local communities that surround it and the project would negatively impact all of the above. Best, David Vandergriff Member, Arkansas Pollution Control & Ecology Commission (the views expressed in this comment are my own)

I've guided on Clear Creek, in Colorado, which hasn't seen active mining since the early 1900's. Even though its been nearly 100 years, there are still major impacts to the creek, its habitability for fish, and the quality of the whitewater that did not go away when the mines closed. The Stibnite Gold Project will have a huge impact on the South Fork, and at the end of the day, I would love to someday come up and guide in the amazing scenery and whitewater that's found today on the South Fork.

As someone who has had the privilege to float and spend time on this river, I cannot understate how unique, beautiful, and important this place is and how it can never be replaced. These places, ones we have left largely in their natural state are one of our country's biggest assets and we must protect them. I have had the privilege to spend time on numerous other 'wild and scenic' rivers, a designation the South Fork does not have, and this river corridor is as wild and scenic as anything I've seen. This watershed is a precious resource, not only for whitewater, but for fisheries and for the beauty that wild lands bring to our state, our country, and our world. This place is precious and should not be treated as less, don't let it be used to harvest resources, let it be what it naturally is, a breathtaking wilderness river. Thank you, Fritz Horst

I cherish my time kayaking, fishing, camping and rafting with my young family in these beautiful areas. The facts show that the Stibnite mine threatens all of these areas, in particular the East and South Forks which drain into the Main Salmon.

The South Fork of the Salmon is one of the most beautiful and challenging multiday self-supports in the United States. As a kayaker, I try to experience this place every year. No large mining projects have ever not polluted local watersheds. How is this different and how would that not violate the Federal Clean Water Act?

I have made several trips to Idaho's South Fork Salmon river and feel that it is one of the most spectacular drainages in Idaho and maybe the entire Western US. Because it has such a wild feel, with minimal human impact, but accessible, it is a rare find. Visiting this water shed is the only reason I visit Idaho these days. I am a white water kayaker, biker and hiker who enjoys wild places which is why I'm expressing my concern. It [Alternative 5] appears that it is the only alternative that doesn't compromise the river in some significant way. Isn't it time to take a longer run perspective and protect these places for future generations? We have only been exploiting the west's resources for that last 200 years, which is a blink of an eye in human history, and yet we are already running out of unspoiled river drainages. The SF Salmon has already been exploited enough and has gone back to a wild feel.

I oppose the Gold Project on the South Fork of the Salmon. I feel like there must be a balance between conservation and industry, and in this case, in an amazing river corridor that joins a wild and scenic river and is adjacent a wilderness, that we should push the scale in favor of conservation. I realize that industry is vital to state income and well being, but recreation is a more sustainable source of that income, without the potential environmental consequences. We are currently looking for property to buy in the McCall area, for the very reason of highly available recreation on the rivers in the area. That is economic impact that should also be accounted for on the side of conservation.

More importantly, I want my children and future generations of people to have the opportunity to experience these pristine rivers in their current form--certainly not in a more polluted, toxic form. ., .

Let's keep this resource pristine for future generations of fish and humans. It's worth so much more than gold as is!!"

I spent three days paddling down the South Fork Salmon River this summer, and saw several sensitive habitats that could be adversely affected by impacts from the proposed mine.

As a local Idaho kayaker and guide, I hold high values for the rivers and spectacular whitewater resources of Idaho. . This river is not only important to me, but countless others.

I have had two opportunities to kayak the South Fork of the Salmon River, and on both occasions was stunned by the watershed's remarkable water quality, rugged landscape and world-class whitewater. There are few opportunities in river running that hold a candle to the South Fork. This river is a treasure for recreational users like myself, but of critical importance is the deep place it holds in the history of its ancestral inhabitants, including the Shoshone, Nez Perce, Bannock and Paiute tribes. .

The South Fork Salmon is a pristine watershed of unparalleled quality. The mining project will irreparably harm the habitat, wildlife, wilderness character, water quality and will compromise a world class whitewater kayaking destination. Expert kayakers from around the world value Idaho's high quality whitewater, rugged wilderness, and pristine ecological conditions. There are many options world wide for gold to be mined in less sensitive areas. There is only one South Fork Salmon, and it would be a travesty to allow narrow private mining interests to profit at the expense of the American citizens who prize the rugged wilderness that only Idaho and the South Fork Salmon provide. Our wise leaders signed the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act to protect some of America's most pristine natural resources from development and destruction, and we must continue the legacy of stewardship to preserve the rapidly diminishing global resource of wilderness river watersheds. We must look past the short term financial gain for the few private interests and preserve our most precious resources for generations to come. I urge you to choose Alternative 5. Concerned citizens who value our natural resources are counting on our Forest Service Administrators to honor their duty to protect and preserve our land and our rivers. Please do not allow a mining company to irreparable harm OUR land. Sincerely, Ian Foley

I fulfilled a 30-year goal this summer, to kayak the South Fork of the Salmon River in Idaho. It is challenging, beautiful, and remote, and lived up to its reputation. . I do not represent a "special interest group," I am a concerned citizen and stakeholder who utilizes these public lands. The rivers of the South Fork Salmon watershed contain world class whitewater that paddlers from across the country and the world will travel to Idaho to visit forever. A gold mine, by contrast, will produce a few decades of money for a tiny special interest group and a few dozen miners and leave a perpetually trashed environment in its wake. .

We just returned from a spectacular river trip down the Main Salmon. My family (18 of us on this trip, three generations) had an amazing journey down one of the least polluted, most un-impaired rivers in the United States. Of course, we pass the confluence of the Southfork about half way down this 7 day trip, and the water quality and clarity were both remarkable coming out of this stream. Additionally, we were treated to the spectacle of a spawned out salmon in the shallows. Obviously both rivers (the Salmon and The South Fork) have been impacted in many ways by development in the watersheds, and there are reminders of this throughout the watershed, but the proposed mining/cyanide leaching operation is potential impact on an entirely different scale, and potentially deadly to the life in the river. It's not a risk we should take. This is an exceptional resource, which reminds us of the importance of wilderness, free flowing streams, and pristine water, both for the ecosystems and for the wellness of humans. ., . No amount of short term gain will justify the potential impacts.

I am anticipating a trip to the South Fork Salmon river area in the near future. I desire to see the river in its unspoiled natural condition. This is very important to me and others like me who already live in arears that are far from their natural state as development of various industries has changed the landscape forever. These unspoiled places like the South Fork of the Salmon River are critical to not only the health and well being of the residents of Idaho but of residents of other states and even other countries who come to visit to experience the peace and beauty of a natural environment to enrich their lives. Please restrict any mining activities and industrial development on this river.

"The rivers of the South Fork Salmon watershed contain world-class whitewater that paddlers from across the country and the world travel to Idaho to visit. .

but it would also negatively impact all of the people of Idaho who rely on the hundreds of thousands of visitors each year to our National Forests. The South Fork Salmon River is finally healing from the scars of past mining

activity, and the impacts of expanded mining activity represent an unacceptable risk to this watershed. I hope to enjoy this river with my friends and family for many years."

I am writing to express my support for Alternative 5, the No Action Alternative outlined in the Stibnite Gold Project's Draft Environmental Impact Statement. Within the last 10-years I have become very familiar with the South Fork Salmon watershed and have visited annually to kayak the South Fork Salmon and its tributaries. The South Fork Salmon is a very special place and I am deeply concerned about the proposed alternatives that are being considered, as all of the alternatives, would adversely affect federally listed endangered fish species, their habitat, and the watershed's water quality and quantity.

I personally am employed as a whitewater river guide who operates on the main salmon river. Since the south fork pours into the already designated wild and scenic salmon river, a degradation of environment for the south fork would lead directly to a degradation of one of only 7 wild and scenic rivers in the United States. This mine would no doubt affect the ability of both me and the company I work for, Rocky Mountain river tours, to offer a pure wilderness experience to people who are increasingly living in the planned and built world of urban sprawl. Letting this mine be built would be yet another tragedy of nature that could be easily prevented by just not having the mine operate. .

As an IDAHO RESIDENT, I AM 100% OPOSED to the Stibnite Gold Project! It is clearly a danger to fish, wildlife and water quality which all of us here in Idaho depend on. Economically it is a terrible use of the land and a raw deal for Idaho and all US taxpayers. As someone who has spent weeks in the area of the proposed project and who has been down the South Fork of the Salmon. I understand the value the rivers and spectacular whitewater resources of Idaho,

Do not follow through on further destruction and degradation to the preserved wildlife our founding fathers intended we would be blessed with.

Please think of the individuals who value the intrinsic and inherent beauty of the Salmon watershed. It is vitally important that mining not operate there now or in the future.

. I am not writing representing a "special interest group," Over the past 2 years I have had the privilege of floating the South Fork and the Middle Fork along with the Colorado through the Grand Canyon. Of all those memorable days, one of my days on the South Fork stands out as the most memorable. Crystal clear water, no one else around. Seeing 3 Bears in one day as they walked on the trail. It is hard to find stunningly clean water, a fantastic ecosystem with such easy access. The South Fork is one of the few Rivers that has actually been cleaned up and improved over the past decade. The South Fork is just as valuable as the Middle Fork but because it is harder, it gets less commercial traffic. That makes it even more special. It is time to stop appropriating public resources for the private benefit of a few shareholders in a mining company. .

Please save America's rivers!!! People and other animals need and deserve fresh, clean uncontaminated water. Mining this beautiful area will be a tremendous detriment to the people and the environment. This place is much more valuable than gold!!!!

. The rivers of the South Fork Salmon watershed contain world class whitewater that I and paddlers from across the world travel to Idaho to visit. .

"The Forest Service must protect the outstanding water quality of this major tributary to the Wild and Scenic Salmon River, as this river system is a center of outdoor recreation, and the economic vitality of the local communities that surround it.

Moving forward with this project would not only adversely impact my personal enjoyment of this public resource through whitewater paddling, "

The South Salmon is a treasure that should be protected from this type of development. ., .

I have personally made several trips to paddle the South Fork of the Salmon, and the clean waters there will continue to draw me and my friends back to Idaho. .

I had the opportunity to paddle this river just a month ago (in September) at base flows and was completely blown away by the river corridor; the whitewater was incredible along with the scenery and camping sites! I'm eagerly planning my return to the river next spring / summer to experience it at higher flows.

I would beg you to consider the massive impact that mining operations have on local watersheds. The effects are devastating and long lasting and as an avid outdoorsman and appreciator of the amazing waterways that comprise the Salmon watershed I would be distraught to see mining operations put into place. Please continue to

protect our invaluable natural wonders instead of whoring the land out for profit.

The DEIS clearly states that all of the alternatives presented (apart from Alternative 5) would adversely affect federally listed endangered fish species, their habitat, and the watershed's water quality and quantity. I am writing as a concerned citizen- stakeholder who utilizes the public lands in question in their current undiminished state. As an American citizen, I speak as an owner of these lands, which the Forest Service is directed to manage in the public interest. The rivers of the South Fork Salmon watershed are pristine in their current state, and contain world-class whitewater that paddlers from across the country (and world) regularly travel to visit. It is incredibly important to me that the Forest Service protect the outstanding water quality of this major tributary to the Wild and Scenic Salmon River. This river system is vitally important for native and endangered fish, outdoor recreation, and the economic vitality of the local communities that surround it. It would negatively impact the people of Idaho who rely on the hundreds of thousands of visitors each year to this river and National Forest. In light of the fact that the South Fork Salmon River has taken decades to heal from the damage of past mining activity, the high likelihood that significant and preventable harm will result from the currently proposed mining activity makes it an unacceptable risk for the watershed. Thank you for your time and service.

I paddled this river in July 2019 and it is absolutely beautiful! It would be a crime to allow this watershed and river to be impacted by a mining operation. . Please protect this valuable resource for us and future generations..

I have been an avid paddler for over 35 years, running rivers around the country and in other countries as well. I have not had the opportunity to paddle the South Fork Salmon yet, but it has been on my 'bucket list' for years. A large group of my friends paddled it summer of 2019 and I unfortunately was unable to join; however we are planning another trip as they all indicated it was spectacular, pristine, and a true whitewater gem of North America. .

As an avid kayaker and outdoorsman who loves the rivers and spectacular whitewater resources of Idaho, . I am writing as a concerned citizen and stakeholder who utilizes these public lands in their current undiminished state.,

I travel to the area spending my money with the local residents and businesses in a way that brings resources into rather than pulling them out of the area. .

The EIS clearly is bias and has not been completed by a non bias entity. It neglects specific threats to the ecosystem, river, reclamation and contingencies. Don't sell out one of the most beautiful places and most pristine rivers in our state to a company that clearly has ZERO interest in anything other than turning emended profits.

DO THE RIGHT THING! Put value on wilderness, and prioritize conservation. Please we beg you!

The rivers were beautiful, and need to be protected. ., .

The rivers of the South Fork Salmon watershed contain world class whitewater and spectacular fishing. It is incredibly important to me personally and my family, that the Forest Service protect the outstanding water quality of this major tributary to the Wild and Scenic Salmon River, . Sincerely, Joe Hughes, Life Time Idaho Resident
The South Fork Salmon River is a very special place to me, my family and friends. I am one of tens of thousands whitewater enthusiasts making annual pilgrimages to the South Fork. We spend our dollars supporting family businesses, grocers, gas stations and outfitters in Riggins and throughout central Idaho. ., . Sincerely, Collin Whitehead

This was a favorite place to camp when the kids were little.then you moved all the camping away from the river. We lost all our favorite spots to camp so why let big mining destroy that wonderful spot in Idaho.

Moving forward with this project would not only adversely impact my personal enjoyment of this public resource through whitewater rafting and cat boating, camping and fishing,

The south fork has been a special place in my life for many years. There are not too many places that allow you to escape the impact of mankind. The south fork offers that. Please keep one of the last wild places wild!

Ive traveled to Idaho to attempts to do a South Fork Salmon, and while circumstances didn't work out that time, it is on my list of must-paddle destination rivers that I want to see protected. I have traveled to Idaho multiple other times for the world class whitewater and natural beauty. .

A few weeks ago, I got to raft on the Salmon River. It was so spectacular and beautiful and my favorite part was how wild and natural the landscape was for the majority of the river. I am also a fisheries biologist, and I don't agree with any developments that would impact native fish. This alone should be enough reason to prevent this project from happening, but the aesthetic impact to the land would also be extremely detrimental to the entire

river system. Please consider these comments when you make your final decisions.

Personally, I am a nonprofit outfitter (LEAPadventure.org) who takes youth and adults who are healing from trauma on multiday kayaking programs on the lower section of the Salmon. Moving forward with this project would not only adversely impact my personal enjoyment but also the public enjoyment and that of the groups we serve of this public resource through whitewater paddling, camping and fishing. It would also negatively impact all of the people of Idaho who rely on the hundreds of thousands of visitors each year to our National Forests.

The Salmon is one of the USAs only free flowing river and we need to do everything possible to protect it.

I grew up in Montana and Idaho knowing how critical it is for our wild rivers and forests to remain simply that. These places must be maintained as they are, without digging into the earth for profit. I grew on rafting on the salmon, recalling out clean the wilderness seemed to be. In the future, I plan to take my children down the river with it being as pristine as when I first saw it. The river of the South Fork Salmon watershed contain world class whitewater that paddlers from across the country and the world travel to Idaho to visit, stimulating our growing outdoor economic industry. I hope we as the people of this land may know the deep importance of our responsibility as caretakers of this place, for its sustainability and protection. I am counting on you to make our voices heard. Sincerely, Brooke Dunnagan

If the south for gets degraded all of the main below the confluence feels the effects. The salmon river system is one the most intact river system in the lower 48 let's keep it that way.

I am writing as a concerned citizen and stakeholder who has kayaked the South Fork Salmon watershed. It is world class whitewater that paddlers from across the country and the world travel to Idaho to visit. I live in colorado and even here there is nothing that compares to the south fork salmon got big water wilderness kayaking. The DEIS clearly states that other Alternative 5, every other alternative would adversely affect federally listed endangered fish species, their habitat, and the watershed's water quality and quantity. For me, protecting the outstanding water quality of this major tributary to the Wild and Scenic Salmon River system is vitally important for native and endangered fish, outdoor recreation, and the economic vitality of the surrounding local communities. Moving forward with this project would adversely impact my personal enjoyment of this public resource through whitewater paddling, it would also negatively impact the people of Idaho who rely on the hundreds of thousands of visitors each year to our National Forests. Expanded mining activity on the south fork of the salmon river represents an unacceptable risk to this watershed.

The rivers of the South Fork Salmon watershed contain world class whitewater that paddlers, like me, from across the country (I live in Oregon) and the world travel to Idaho to visit. .

"I have personally spent many nights camping on the South Fork Salmon river and days paddling its incredible clear waters. The fishing is incredible. I plan to make my yearly pilgrimage to the Salmon this upcoming May. I'm terrified of the thought a gold mine inserted into the headwaters would destroy one of Idaho's great waterways and pristine wilderness experiences. I've experienced the devastating effects of mining on rivers first hand by regularly paddling the Cheat River in West Virginia. The Cheat River banks are permanently scarred, water quality forever ruined and fish dead from mining activity at the top of the watershed. . .

Please reject the insertion of a devastating mine into a sacred watershed."

Today, more than ever, we need to be stewards of our land and protect our natural resources for current and future generations. There's already enough exploitation of resources that have destroyed public natural locations; it's our responsibility to save the rest.

Don't screw up our water.

" I am writing to share my opposition to the Stibnite Gold Project on the South Fork of the Salmon River. Nearly every single river in the United States has been negatively affected by human development, alteration and pollution. This leads to permanent environmental consequences, species loss, and ruining of the same water we ourselves rely on. As our awareness and understanding of these effects grows, so must our efforts to protect these rivers and their ecosystems from this senseless destruction. Rivers are the veins that carry the lifeblood necessary for every organism across every kind of biome for thousands of miles. Healthy drainages are imperative to the ecological functions that humans and thousands of species of flora and fauna need to live. Gold is not. The value of gold is arbitrary and gold is not vital to the life of any human or being. I ask those reading this to consider the economic value of a clean river to Idaho and its inhabitants for decades to come versus the

temporary economic boost of a project like this. Just like all mining efforts before this one, once the gold is out of the ground, any local economic benefits will cease immediately. Families will be left displaced and out of work. Boom and bust. Once all the gold is out of the ground, the tailings and toxic waste will still be left behind to leak into the water system at any time and rate for decades. This project will almost certainly cause detrimental effects to recreation and tourism, biodiversity, and peoples' health. As demonstrated by our huge efforts today to mitigate the consequences of past mining and development projects, restoring rivers to their clean and naturally flowing state is best for all. Please do not accept the DEIS as it stands and include all risks of the project including those that will exist beyond its completion in your consideration. Your mission as the Forest Service is 'To sustain the health, diversity, and productivity of the Nation's forests and grasslands to meet the needs of present and future generations'. Future generations don't need more gold. Your kids and mine need clean water, places to recreate, to appreciate nature undisturbed. The future generation will need sustainable jobs with purpose that grow their communities, not short-lived jobs that destroy the land and provide zero locally lasting opportunity or prosperity.

These projects only benefit the few who have no stake in or care for Idaho besides what they can extract from it. Do not let this project rob the people of Idaho of their essential elements of life to chase their greed. I urge those of you with the power to stop this project and any of its nature from harming Idaho's most vital artery, the Salmon River."

I ran the South Fork Salmon last summer and it was remote and beautiful. There are not many rivers so fine and hard to access as the S. Fork Salmon. We need to protect it for posterity. It is vital to me that the Forest Service protect the outstanding water quality of this major tributary to the Wild and Scenic Salmon River. . Moving forward with this project would likely adversely impact my personal enjoyment of this public resource as the area would receive more mining traffic and water withdrawals. More traffic and less water (of diminished quality) would negatively impact whitewater paddling, camping and fishing, it would also negatively impact the people of Idaho who rely on the hundreds of thousands of visitors each year to our National Forests.

"SAVE THE SOUTH SALMON ITS A NATURAL RIVER THAT A MINE WOULD COMPLETELY RUIN. Precious metals such as gold hold little value to the true value of this river. "

I've paddled the S fork Salmon at a variety of flows. I've paddled hard whitewater from Maine to Alaska, from South Carolina to California. I can say that the S Salmon is, hands down, one of the best whitewater rivers in the country. Let's not ruin this gem. . , .

Please help protect the south fork salmon. You are putting a monetary value on a priceless resource. With all of my heart, I love the rivers of Idaho and I fear they won't be a source of pride when my children would be old enough to enjoy them. Someone can make money now by mining or you can stop this mining operation and EVERYONE can enjoy this slice of beauty. Thanks

I am writing to express my concerns with the future of the Salmon River. A river corridor my family holds dear to their heart. A corridor we spend countless hours in every year creating memories that will last a lifetime.

Traditions being passed on for generations. . , .

"Salmon, bull trout, and steelhead are already seriously diminished across the west.

It's getting harder to plan destination fishing trips as big fish populations decline in many states. . "

Please keep Idaho wild.

We have the opportunity to set ourselves apart as a country and really show our core values. Please let us not sell our souls for short term gain, when we can save our land, our water, and our country's majesty for the future. the South Fork Salmon River is the number 1 natural resource which brings me to the US for tourism purposes. and must remain in its undiminished state.

The Salmon River in Idaho is one of the most unique watersheds in the country. I spent 5 wonderful summers river guiding on the Salmon, and hope it remains unspoiled for future generations. Mining in the SF would be a huge loss for fish habitats, conserving the beauty of Idaho, and all who love to recreate on public lands.

On top of this, I would personally like to ask what the point of it all is and why do you and others still try damage out earth just for your own profit? Every tributary to the salmon is a very special current of water, but the south fork is something else. Not only for whitewater, but it remains in such an important ecosystem that a huge mine would completely destroy. I myself have never paddled the south fork salmon, but I'm writing this because I really hope to paddle it someday soon, and a mine at the headwaters would not only ruin my future experience(s) but

every one else's not to mention all of the fish and other species you would significantly harm with this proposal. So please take in to consideration not only the entire whitewater community when you make this decision, but our planet and everyone else we share it with. Stop valuing corporate profit over endangered species, delicate and pristine ecosystems, and everyone else who goes to these places to enjoy them.

"Even more importantly than recreation, we need to work together to protect the voiceless rivers and bodies of water. We all understand how it works, impact the water which will impact the fish which will ultimately impact every single other living creature in that ecosystem including human beings. Water is all living creatures' life force and impacting it will only do us harm. Isn't it terrible that humans are so blinded by money that they prioritize it over the health of their own environment? It is incredibly important to me personally that the Forest Service protect the water quality of this major tributary to the Wild and Scenic Salmon River, .

Moving forward with this project would negatively impact all the people of Idaho who rely on the hundreds of thousands of visitors each year to our National Forests. "

Do not rob Idahoans of the water quality and wildlife of the south salmon and main salmon rivers. ., .

Not only is the SF Salmon a true Gem of the great state of Idaho, it is also vital habitat to the whole columbia river basin. A mine here would compromise the health of one of the most important watersheds of the West, all for the short-term profits of very few people. This is purely selfish. ., .

The rivers of the South Fork Salmon watershed contain unique whitewater paddling opportunities which I value, and the protection of the land and water is an important piece of environmental management. I prioritize clean water and protection of resources over private interests and uses that present risks to irreparably change, and harm, our lands. The DEIS states that all of the alternatives presented, apart from Alternative 5, would adversely affect federally listed endangered fish species, their habitat, and the watershed's water quality and quantity. It is important to me that the Forest Service protect the outstanding water quality of this major tributary to the Wild and Scenic Salmon River, . The South Fork Salmon River is healing from previous mining activity, and the impacts of expanded mining activity represents an unacceptable risk to this watershed.

I am extremely concerned about the health and integrity of the river for years to come. ., .

"I simply can't stand the dismantling of environmental protections, can you? Don't you care about the future generations to come? Or are you so bolder to big money that your priorities are to just screw the stewardship of God's creation and the only planet we have to live on? ., .

."

This river is used by many annually by myself and my family. Please stand up for what Idaho stands for, clean water, clear rivers and beautiful places for generations. For your and my posterity, please protect this river.

Protect this river for the many and please don't allow it to be ruined to satisfy a few.

I have dreamed of floating the salmon for years and years. Wilderness deserves to be protected. Especially from greed. The mine will destroy the salmon.

History has shown that the impacts from mining carry the true costs to future generations. Often these impacts will endanger the drinking water and health of those living downstream. The actual 'benefit' of mining does not outweigh the environmental and public health impacts. Private benefit and 'right' to mining is a TAKE from the American people and only damages public lands. We should be taking PRIDE in our public lands by protecting them from degradation and pillage. Have some pride, STOP allowing the resources in the public trust to be taken by private business as there is NO public benefit from mining gold in this area.

I value the rivers and resources of Idaho, and travel from another state multiple times per year to visit them. I d The Forest Service is supposed to manage in the Public Interest. A Canadian mining company does not care about American Public Interests!! The rivers of the South Fork Salmon watershed contain world class whitewater that attracts paddlers from around the world. Interest in these resources is increasing. People of Idaho who seek lucrative employment might do well to provide services to this group, instead of tearing up the SFS headwaters in search of gold that will enrich a Canadian corp.

I have personally rafted these rivers many times and would be devastated to see their pristine state lost. We should seek to restore rivers that have been damaged by human action, not tarnish a national treasure. .

I have had the opportunity to paddle this beautiful stretch of water from near the Stibnite mine site all the way to it's confluence with the Main Salmon, a wild and scenic river. This is an outstanding waterway and should not be

allowed to have its water and fisheries impacted by mining concerns. Please do not allow the reopening of this failed venture.

Idaho's Salmon River watershed is truly spectacular. The South Fork in particular is a special, irreplaceable river. This decision will decide the ability of future generations of fish, anglers, and paddlers alike to thrive and find abundance in these waters.

"Personally speaking, I look forward to spending tourism dollars in your community to visit these wild places. Clean water and pristine rivers for fishing and other recreation opportunities are the images that come to mind when thinking about Idaho. Tourism dollars are more valuable to your communities when outdoor recreation is factored in rather than extractive industries that render the landscape blemished. . "

The South Fork of the Salmon is a beautiful resource that would be tragic to lose.

I personally have been coming to this river yearly for a decade, never ceasing to be awed by the beauty of the canyon and wildlife, and fabulous whitewater. .

I grew up rafting and enjoy my time spent on the salmon river. It is such an amazing natural feature and I would hate to see it degraded by mining operations. . I am not writing representing a "special interest group," I am writing as a concerned citizen who utilizes these public lands in their current undiminished state,, .

The South Fork Salmon is one of the best white water in North America. All the other rivers that compare are dammed or have been destroyed. There is only one other river that comes close to it the Futaleufu and it is 6,000 miles away in Chile. And even that river is at risk of being destroyed. We must save these natural wonders not just for us but the future. ., .

I first had the pleasure of driving along the SFS and the EF/ SFS almost 20 years ago. I was just a young carpenter on my way to work on a project in Yellow Pine, but I was already an experienced whitewater boater and I was thrilled to see the beauty of the South Fork, even in the cold hush of winter. I learned that it was possible to put on Johnson Creek above Yellow Pine and follow it to the EF, the SF, and finally into the Main. That trip got added to my bucket list, because this sort of adventure inspires me I'm now middle aged, with 1 wife, 2 businesses, 3 kids, and 4 rental houses. I haven't made it back to the South Fork yet...but I'm coming, and I'm likely bringing my kids with me. They will expect to find the magical mountain river that I've described. Please don't disappoint them with industrial pollution. Thank you.

I want these rivers restored and preserved for future generations. . We should not make these mistakes again. Witness the unmitigated disaster of the GOLD KING MINE SPILL. Sincerely, Thomas Troy, Stakeholder

I have been rafting on the Salmon River since I was 7 years old in 1994. The past several years I have started taking my children with my husband who has been rafting since he was 8 on the Salmon River. In his adult years he and his brothers have katarafted the South Fork as well. We have noticed small changes all ready on the river. We drew a permit for the Main this last year. Not as much wildlife and fishing. We are all ready saddened that is different for our kids than it was for us. Salmon Falls rapid has disappeared because of natural disasters. With the proposed mining, I worry about the affects it will have on the Main, Lower, and the Middle Fork with man made changes.

I can tell you that the problems and expense that loom in the future from a mine of this type is not worth it. I have lived in Idaho my whole life, and value its recreation.

I value the wild spaces that our state is fortunate enough to have access to. It is extremely important to protect this incredible testament to the exceptionalism of American land and natural spaces, both for the people and species of today as well as for those that come after us. .

I have seen the impacts mining can have on rivers and wildlife. How it can stain the surrounding area for years after the mining has ceased and in some cases permanently change the environment around. I oppose mining around watersheds especially in areas like Idaho that are relatively untouched and undeveloped.

The South Fork of the Salmon is also a premier Class IV-V multiday float. Those pristine waters are also part of a natural Salmon run where the Salmon swim upstream from the Pacific Ocean to spawn in Idaho.

As someone who has worked on projects with the Chinook salmon runs on the South Fork of the Salmon River, these fish are barely hanging on, and the last thing they need is another dam, contamination, and altered fluvial geomorphology, as it could be the last straw. These past years, managers such as Jamie Mitchell, Malia Gallagher, and Ken Felty at the McCall Fish Hatchery have worried and literally lost sleep over whether there would be enough spawning salmon to keep the population viable. Fishing seasons have closed to protect this

vital (and potentially valuable) resource and it would mistake of morally epic proportions to let decades of work, millions of dollars, and countless acres be destroyed for the sake of money, particularly when the vast majority of the money will only benefit members and executives of the mining company at the cost of the peoples' recreation (which ultimately boosts state and local economy/commerce). The South Fork of the Salmon River wasn't named for the bears that rely on its salmon runs. It wasn't named for the wild game that inhabit the area. It wasn't named for the vegetation that depends on the clean mountain water. And it sure wasn't named after any precious metal deposits found in the area. The Salmon River and its tributaries were named after the fish that make the journey of hundreds of miles just to give birth and breathe their last breathes in its crisp waters. To kill the salmon as a consequence of mining would be to erase from our memories the river itself and deprive from future generations still 'in the womb of time' the chance to recreate and love the land as countless others do. If you want to dig a hole, do it in your own backyard, but please let us enjoy this land with our families

The rivers of the South Fork Salmon watershed contain world class whitewater that paddlers like me travel to Idaho to visit.

The South Fork Salmon River is finally healing from the scars of past mining activity, and the impacts of expanded mining activity represent an unacceptable risk to this watershed.

I kayaked the South Fork Salmon this past June. It's an amazing and pristine location. . .

Idaho is too great to dump toxins in the South Salmon.

I've enjoyed some of the greatest river trips of my life on the Main and South Fork Salmon Rivers. Protect these places at all costs! . . .

I am writing to let you know that I strongly oppose the proposed stibnite mine. The South Salmon is a world class river that should be preserved in its current state for existing and future Americans to enjoy.

I am an individual who values the rivers and spectacular whitewater, fishing, and other recreation resources of Idaho, and I also recognize the value of pristine and undisturbed habitat for our imperiled fish. My thesis project studies the fish communities of Big Creek, just across the ridge, and there are many parallels between the fish that I study and those that are threatened by this project. . .

I have had the great privilege of rafting and kayaking on the Middle Fork and Main Salmon Rivers, the Lochsa, Clearwater, and South Fork of the Payette Rivers. Last summer I was a support team (shuttle driver) for a group of friends and family who went on a 3 day self support kayak trip on the South Fork of the Salmon. It was an epic trip for them, and I hope to be able to join them on the South Fork of the Salmon in the future.

Keep Idaho wild. This is a statement I have heard my entire life and believe in wholeheartedly. Idaho has rugged, beautiful and untouched wilderness. This wilderness gives Idaho spirit. This proposed project will hurt the environment in devastating ways. The health of the river comes before any profit.

The SF Salmon has seen some hard use by humans. Extreme logging in mid 1900's destroyed a lot of habitat for fish, and for us humans who value a sustaining intact ecosystem. Please learn from our past and protect this wonderful and recovering river system. Wild habitat and the salmon and other fish it sustains has a tremendous and lasting value. A gold mine gives no lasting value but does give long lasting habitat degradation to the SF Salmon River and its surrounding forests. Alternative 5, no action, is the only way to avoid destruction of this River, again. The South Fork Salmon River is finally healing from the scars of past mining and Logging activity, and the impacts of expanded mining activity represents an unacceptable risk to this watershed.

The South Fork of the Salmon is one the greatest rivers in our nation, if not THE greatest river! . . .

I have personally moved to Idaho to enjoy these places, and would be devastated if they were destroyed. .

The rivers of Idaho are on the license plate as their pristine state represents so much to so many people.

I have travelled to Idaho to run the Salmon more than any other river west of my home state of Arkansas. I love the pristine river and mountain environment.

South Salmon is one of all around best rivers I have ever paddled. The quality whitewater, world class fishing, and pristine scenery make it an incredibly important resource to protect for recreation. In the whitewater world, the quality of the South Salmon is a fairly recent discovery, and therefore the number of people floating the river has been increasing incrementally over the past 10 years. Recreation on the S Salmon will be an important long term economic resource for the Yellow Pine area. When we float the river, we use the river as our drinking water supply, and while there already is some tainting from previous mining projects, it will be an increased hazard for boaters to drink the water with active mining runoff both on the S Salmon and further downstream in the Main

Salmon drainage. . .

Please let's protect our natural resources. . .

These visitors, myself included, mean revenue for local businesses. Sure, initial build of this mine would bring in contractors for a short period. But in the long run, tourism and visitors will mean more for the rural economy than they will.

"I am writing to discuss the ecological, recreational, and cultural significance of the South Fork Salmon watershed in efforts to support Alternative 5, the No Action Alternative outlined in the Stibnite Gold Project's Draft Environmental Impact Statement. As an Idaho native, I am deeply concerned about the consequences that Stibnite mine could have on our public lands, as well as our fish and wildlife species. The rivers of the South Fork Salmon watershed remain a beautiful wilderness area that draws world class whitewater paddlers from across the country and the world. I had the privilege of paddling down the South Fork Salmon for the first time this summer, and it marked the accomplishment of a major goal in my kayaking career. While the whitewater made this trip exciting, it the beautiful landscape and clean rivers made it a unique wilderness expedition that I hope to continue paddling for many years to come. While the recreational value of the South Fork Salmon is second to none, its ecological significance as a major tributary to the Salmon River, where several endangered fish species live and breed, make it essential to conserve this river. .

I ask that you consider the impact that moving forward with this mine will have on our people, wilderness, and wildlife. "

The rivers of the South Fork Salmon watershed represent some of the most ecologically significant habitat for native aquatic species in the Northwest, and failure to address the potentially irreversible decimation of this ecosystem by the proposed mining activity would represent a failure by the Forest Service. .

As someone who values the authenticity of the rivers and whitewater resources of Idaho, . I am not writing representing a special interest group, I am writing as a concerned citizen and stakeholder who utilizes these public lands in their current undiminished state, In both the short- and long-term, diminishing these resources would not be in the public interest. It is incredibly important to me that the Forest Service protect the outstanding water quality of this major tributary to the Wild and Scenic Salmon River, . Moving forward with this project would not only adversely impact my personal enjoyment of this public resource through whitewater paddling, camping, and fishing,

I am writing you in regards to the Stibnite Gold Mine and the risks it poses to the East Fork of the South Fork of the Salmon and all waters down stream. This past summer I had the privilege to explore the East Fork of the South Fork and South Fork of the Salmon from just down stream of Yellow Pine all the way down to the Main Salmon. A section of river I had been eying for years, the stars finally aligned for myself and a group of talented whitewater kayakers to descend the stretch while water levels were considerably high. The quality of whitewater, scenery, and remoteness validated the arduous journey to get to this beautifully remote area of Idaho. I hope to paddle and explore this incredible area for the rest of my life and hope that outdoors people from all walks of life will get the opportunity to do the same. This river corridor needs to be protected and left intact for all whom have not explored it. For those who cannot it still holds intrinsic value that is far more important than a gold mine and the adverse effects it will have on this natural habitat. The citizens of this great country deserve to have public lands that are wild. This is one of those places that we, as Americans, cannot afford to relinquish.

The rivers of the South Fork Salmon watershed contain world class whitewater that paddlers from across the country and the world travel to Idaho to experience. . Human interests and economy aside, this watershed holds priceless value as is. Its integrity and quality should be protected fiercely. Please think big picture and do not allow such toxic use of this area.

2020 has been a trying year. The best escape from Coronavirus pandemic was 5 days floating through the wilderness on the Salmon river. It really highlighted the value of having protected public lands to visit during a pandemic.

I am writing as someone who utilizes these public lands for paddling, fishing, and hiking in their current state, In my home town, several mines continue to pollute our local river and its been difficult to secure funding to clean them up. This affects fish habit, whitewater recreation, and even swimming in our beloved river. Please don't let this happen in a place as wonderful as the South Fork Salmon, too. .

I along with many friends have been kayaking on the South, Middle and Main Salmon, as well as the East Fork of

the South Fork. The tributaries to the Salmon River watershed are one of the most beautiful and less developed parts of our country. These areas are important for future generations of people and wildlife to inhabit and explore. How do you put a price on these last few and far between sacred spaces. Please do not allow this place to be another sell out to greed and politics.

The rivers of the South Fork Salmon watershed contain world class whitewater, excellent fishing, and clean water which me and my neighbors, and many other paddlers, anglers, and outdoor enthusiasts from around the state and all over the country travel to visit and recreate.

Not only does this watershed have had a tremendous impact on my life and my wilderness experience, but it is my job as an Idahoan to stand up for my public lands. It is these wild and remote areas that define my lifestyle as an Idahoan, as well as so many others'. In addition to the world class whitewater that this watershed provides, it represents our wild and beautiful Idaho, and we must protect it. If this project goes forth, it is clearly stated that the watershed, endangered fish species, their habitat would be adversely affected. Alternative 5 is the only alternative that will not harm the watershed and its inhabitants. I hope to enjoy this watershed for the rest of my life, and want to protect it so that future generations of Idahoans can see and enjoy the beautiful landscapes that define our amazing state. Please, SAVE THE SOUTHFORK!

This is a place I will visit every spring, as long as I live here, for the rest of my life, whether in a kayak or simply enjoying a camping trip in these wonderful mountains. This year, because of the pandemic, Idaho's public lands were FULL of people recreating close to home.

I am concerned about irreversible damage to the downstream water quality. Simply put, this mining project and its downstream effects are an attack on the outstandingly remarkable value of the Wild and Scenic Salmon River. Idaho residents benefit economically as people travel from around the world to experience its renowned rivers. The Stibnite project is shortsighted. Specifically, it's a long-term dream of mine to paddle this river with clean free flowing water. If we damage this resource then I will not be making an annual paddling trip and patronizing local businesses.

This place is far too special to be put at risk by a mine. The potential benefit of this mine is far outweighed by the potential for the mine to cause harm in this area.

The south fork provides paddling fishing and hiking in a beautiful wilderness setting. Would love see this river continue to flourish and not see the salmon population diminish.

The South Fork Salmon River is finally healing from the scars of past mining activity, and the impacts of expanded mining activity represents an unacceptable risk to this watershed and the lands surrounding it.

I am writing as a river user who uses and values the South Fork of the Salmon River and who has witnessed the devastation caused by other gold mines around the world. I have seen descriptions of the 'safeguards' put in place to prevent damage to the surrounding land. I would point out that the history of mining in the West is dominated by reports of inadequate remediation, businesses vanishing and leaving behind environmental and economic devastation, lack of rule enforcement, public payments for restoration, and lack of accountability. In the event that the Forest Service chooses to move forward with destroying a public resource for private profit for a few, I would like to see assurances like bonds adequate to cover site restoration and leak/spill management sufficient to cover any conceived cost, potentially in the amount of billions of dollars, and personal criminal liability for company executives, employees and contractors. The best solution is clearly for the Forest Service to learn from past mistakes and steer clear of subsidizing the destruction of precious public resources for private profit. Please DO NOT allow for a mining to take place in the watershed of the South Fork of the Salmon River. As a user of this river and water shed, I am writing as a concerned citizen and stakeholder who utilizes these public lands in their current undiminished state, I am not writing representing a "special interest group."

We have witnessed the degradation of our rivers in the past by the mining industry. How with our understanding of the past and the damage mining has caused would we allow another mine to continue in a fragile ecosystem like the South Fork of the Salmon. It will certainly cause irreversible damage. Please do your part to see that this does not happen. ., .

The backcountry and waters of Idaho and the west are some of the most incredible places I've ever been. I've had the pleasure and privilege of experiencing the Middle Fork and the Main Salmon, and am hoping to add the South Fork to my list in the future. We have a chance to help usher in a new way of managing rivers for the upcoming and ongoing challenges of multiple user groups. Idaho can lead the way. We've become aware

throughout 2020 how vitally important outdoor resources are for public health.

We must keep this area pure.

"I am writing you this letter as public feedback in response to the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) recently released by the Forest Service for a large-scale mining project in the headwaters of the South Fork Salmon (ID). In June of this summer, I did a 4-day self support kayak trip on the East Fork Of South Fork of the Salmon, down the South Fork of the Salmon and through the Main Salmon. As an Experienced class V kayaker who has paddled around the world, I found the quality of whitewater was world class, the clarity of the water like nothing I'd EVER seen before and the wildlife that was teaming on the banks constantly held our attention during calm sections between the excitement of the rapids. This was a magical experience that has made me fall in love with an unquestionable natural beauty and I plan to return again next summer. In addition to the land and water qualify are the various species of fish that stand to be negatively impacted by your open pit mine; Bull Trout, West Slope Cutthroat, Chinook Salmon and Steelhead. All of these species are listed or candidates for listing on the Endangered Species Act and all require cold clean running water for their survival. As a concerned taxpayer I am even more concerned about how the local Nez Perce continue to have their promised resources jeopardized by the government. Ever since the treaties of 1855 and 1863 when the government reserved their rights to subsist off these lands, the various (27) failed mining operations have contaminated their resources. In fact, there was even a 2013 study released that found that all 27 gold mines had experienced at least one pipeline spill or accidental release. Even with the use of liners, 20 of the 27 mines failed to capture or control the contaminated miner seepage from mine tailings negatively impacting water, land, fish, wildlife, air quality and vegetation. The 7 mines that did not leak were not located near perennial streams and had extremely deep ground water whereas, this stibnite site is surrounded by dozens of perennial streams and the groundwater is extremely shallow which significantly increases the danger of contamination. Not only have tribes like the Nez Perce been continually stripped of these resources, but, they have invested 2.5 million dollars annually in this very region restoring rivers, salmon and steelhead fisheries sustainably in the area's natural resources, economy and quality of life. Midas Gold is a Canadian corporation and they are not invested in our lands, water and communities. They promote this as a restoration project, but, how can we, you, believe their clean-up efforts with be any different than every other gold mine project that has preceded them!?? As stewards of this land, can we really afford to risk losing such resources in perpetuity at the risk of financial gain for a few? The current EIS lacks specifics and raises many questions such as what liners will be used and have they been tested? How can they assure us the hazardous chemicals will be safely transported along roadways? How will fish be affected by warmer water temps resulting from the mine? I ask that supplemental impact study be sought to more adequately address the many outstanding concerns that persist. "

I have spent much time recreating on the South Fork Salmon River and consider it to be an unparalleled recreational resource which must be preserved in its current state. The proposed Stibnite Gold Project dramatically threatens the pristine character of the South Fork Salmon and must not be allowed to proceed, especially given its anticipated adverse impacts on endangered fish species, fish habitat, water quality and quantity.

The Salmon is a place of refuge to so many who seek to commune with unspoiled nature, to gain reprieve from the hectic place of life, and to return to a deeper spirituality. Not only is this river vital to white water enthusiasts, it's a place where children have a chance to be kids, and see the beauty in nature.

As an individual who has enjoyed many of America's western rivers, the Salmon River and its watershed has impacted my life the most. Its wild nature, being one of the last major ones left in our country, holds an opportunity and stands as an example for every American to experience the natural, mildly touched, wonders of our great country. As a graduate student studying land use impacts on major watersheds, I have an understanding of the hydrologic response to these sorts of established activities and how the watershed can be completely reshaped by large scale mining. For many other watersheds, this the case, but we can choose to hold others protected so that generations to come can be reminded what an unaffected, healthy watershed looks like. Thank you for your time reading my input about this situation and your consideration. Sincerely, Justin Bowen
This project is a joke, and in complete contradiction with what the U.S. Forest Service was first created to do: 'To sustain the health, diversity, and productivity of the Nation's forests and grasslands to meet the needs of present and future generations.' Idaho is home to some of the most beautiful forests and rivers in the continental United

States. This mining project will completely ruin - whether through the direct action of mining or dam building, or through subsequent and unforeseen construction accidents and leaks - the land and the wildlife, such as the endangered Chinook Salmon. Having experienced deep connections with the land in Idaho and its rivers and mountains, I'm completely embarrassed to have the U.S. Forest Service represent my interests (i.e. the greater public's interests) in even thinking to allow this project. Clean up your act, Forest Service, and stop bending at the knee to big oil and big ag

"Recently, several of my friends and I were able to go on a week long trip down the Salmon River. I was entirely mesmerized by the serene beauty that we were able to thoroughly enjoy day in and day out. Fishing licenses in tow, many a fish were wrangled via fly rod. While I'm sure the intentions of the mine are good, I'm troubled to think that this proposed plan would change the landscape that needs absolutely nothing. Rarely, if ever, does a mine enhance its surrounding area. Our experience is one of many that people have had, and only hope that more people can share in this with the respect to the land that is expected and owed.

Because of this, I encourage a massive reconsideration as to the location of this mine (assuming that this mine needs to happen anyway...)."

Please mine further downstream.

I doubt you realize that the destruction of nature is the destruction of human kind. Mining would ruin the natural ecosystem, and pollute the south fork, which grants life to everything in that area and everything downstream. Please understand that opening this area to mining will cause death and that blood will be on the hands of the US Forest Service. Remember your duty to protect the Earth.

" I love Idaho because unlike many other states it still has untouched wild areas. My understanding is that because this area is on public lands this land has also been designated for my use and not just the use of mining companies. I believe that if this mining project goes through at the headwaters of the South Fork of the Salmon River it will irreversibly change the area and will no longer be the same for future generations. Please do not let this project go through!

Instead I would love to see this area preserved for generations to come as a pristine water area and representative of the wild state of Idaho. Sincerely, Megan Sutton, Public Lands Owner."

it would negatively impact the environment, and would negatively impact all of the people of Idaho who rely on the hundreds of thousands of visitors each year to our National Forests.

The rivers of the South Fork Salmon watershed contain world class whitewater that I and 1000s of other paddlers from across the country and the world travel to Idaho to visit. . The next 7 generations thank you. I come from the Mississippi, where IA, IL, & WI all connect. We would be overjoyed to have the healthier ecosystem like the spectacular whitewater resources of Idaho. The South Fork Salmon River is finally healing from the scars of past mining activity, and the impacts of expanded mining activity represents an unacceptable risk. Please do not view profit over the wonderful, irreplaceable ecosystem.

The rivers of the South Fork Salmon watershed contain critical habitats as well as world class whitewater that paddlers from across the country and the world travel to Idaho to visit. It is very important to me personally that the Forest Service protect the outstanding water quality and fish & wildlife habitats of this major tributary to the Wild and Scenic Salmon River. The long term affects that would result from this project are unacceptable. The river system is vitally important for native and endangered fish, outdoor recreation, and the economic vitality of the local communities that surround it. Moving forward with this project would not only permanently adversely impact my personal enjoyment of this public resource through whitewater paddling, camping and fishing, The South Fork Salmon River is finally healing from past mining activity damages, and the impacts of expanded mining activity represents an unacceptable risk to this watershed.

They also contain unique and irreplaceable ecosystems that support rare and special plants and animals. It will bring an increase of noxious weeds into areas with healthy, intact native plant communities and erode the integrity of these habitats. Please consider the CONTINUED health and productivity of these areas and protect our public lands from death by a thousand cuts due to short-sighted projects like these.

The key tributary to a Wild and Scenic River should not be the site of such a mine. I am one of the hundreds of thousands of people who travel to fish this river and spend money in these communities and this sustainable source of economic activity would be an unacceptable risk to this fishery and watershed.

These watersheds additionally provide important habitats for steelhead trout, bull trout, chinook salmon,

wolverines, and gray wolves. Every year I travel from Seattle to the South Fork Salmon watershed multiple times to enjoy the outdoor recreation that is enabled by the outstanding water quality of this watershed. It is incredibly important to me personally that the Forest Service protect this major tributary to the Wild and Scenic Salmon River. Moving forward with any alternative apart from Alternative 5 would not only severely impact my personal enjoyment of this public resource, it would also severely and negatively impact the fish populations, outdoor recreation, and economic vitality of the local communities. The South Fork Salmon River watershed is finally starting to recover from past mining activity. The impacts of expanded mining activity represents an unacceptable risk to this watershed.

I am entirely fed up with greed over the environment and totally against the Stibnite Gold Project. . , .

The Salmon River is the birthplace of many fish and aquatic species. It serves as a rare and special wild place. Mining of the sort proposed risks this area. No not risk. It ensures destruction of it for gold. Gold for the few. Not the many that enjoy this land. It should be preserved and protected. Hundreds of millions of gallons and pounds of waste will inevitably leach and leak and be a waste problem long after the few extract this wealth. Lets leave Americas wealth intact and in the ground. . , .

This project affects a huge area of Idaho that will be put at risk of leaking the cyanide, arsenic, and antimony expected to be present in tailings from this mine. It's not reasonable to entrust this precious land and water to these interests, for them to extract the profitable gold and then return to the site to completely clean it up. And it's unreasonable to expect accidents won't occur, it can be cleaned up and returned to anything close to its current condition after the gold extraction. And i haven't even mentioned the off-site impacts, electrical upgrades needed, traffic, building bigger roads to accommodate heavy equipment. To allow this huge proposal to go forward would be a complete and total travesty to the precious waterways of Idaho and therefore to the people of Idaho. I vote NO.

Why should we bother taking gold out of the ground? last I checked something like 70% of it sits in vaults in banks. It produces no human good. It does feed people, clothe people, or nurture their soul. Only their greed. Instead of creating jobs that don't help people, why don't we invest in creating jobs that make people happier, like teaching, nursing, craftsman, etcetera? There is a surplus of gold in the world for actual applications that improve quality of life. Why destroy a beautiful natural space (that improves people's quality of life) just to take some shiny mostly useless yellow stuff out of the ground so we can make it into bars and put it back underground in banks? Seems pretty pointless to me. Or if you don't buy that, then lest hate on the fact that it's a foreign company doing it. Also, as a public landowner, shouldn't the miners pay to take my gold out of the ground? (As they do in most countries.) Just saying. . The rivers of the South Fork Salmon watershed contain world-class whitewater that paddlers from across the country and the world travel to Idaho to visit. .

I've traveled to Idaho many times for the scenery and fishing. As someone who values the wild rivers and resources of Idaho, . lands for which I am an owner of and for which the Forest Service is directed to manage in the public interest[mdash]the PUBLIC interest.

Thank you for yoru consideration for the coming generations.

What a special place that isn't rivaled anywhere else in the lower 48 for quality of whitewater and wilderness camping and fishing experience.

The rivers of the South Fork Salmon watershed contain world class whitewater that paddlers from across the country and the world, including myself and family members, travel to Idaho to visit. .

These comments are in opposition regarding the Stibnite mining activities in the mountains of West central Idaho.

It is important to consider the value of the remaining natural landscapes and untrammeled areas of our great state of Idaho. The Stibnite Gold Project will undoubtedly alter the landscape in a negative fashion. Unfortunately, the greatest impacts will occur to the threatened fish populations, wildlife and natural beauty. The rivers of the South Fork Salmon watershed contain world class whitewater that paddlers from across the country and the world travel to Idaho every year to visit. Their time in Idaho truly does support the local economies they visit .

The south fork salmon is an amazing natural resource, and one that must be protected. It is one of the best wilderness multi day sections of river in the country. I have personally travelled to Idaho to float it 7 times, something I try to do every year. The quality of the whitewater combined with the pristine nature of the area make it one of my favorite places in our whole country. That is not an exaggeration. We cannot risk losing this resource for ourselves and future generations. For that reason, . , .

Please, don't let this mine go forward. I can't tell you how much wild rivers mean to the people that use them, OR to the economies of communities near them. Mining sounds lucrative, looks lucrative, IS lucrative, in the short term. But those are short term, temporary gains that hurt our most valuable resources- and the long term, renewable profits those resources provide.

The south fork of the salmon is an amazing and special place. Extractive industries are dirty and untrustworthy neighbors anywhere but the risk is even higher in a pristine setting like the south fork. These companies care only about profit and routinely cut corners and violate regulations to save a few pennies. The south fork of the salmon needs to be protected.

. The rivers of the South Fork Salmon watershed contain world class whitewater paddlers from across the country and the world travel to Idaho to visit. I paddled them this year and would like to in the future. .

I did my masters research in stream ecology in the East Fork South Fork Salmon River watershed. And I know this amazing place is something to treasure and protect. It's wild salmon and rivers are irreplaceable. .

" I had the fortune to run the SF Salmon a few years back and it was one of the most spectacular experiences of my life. It would be a tragedy beyond words to let this pristine treasure be impacted with this mine. I hope you can see past the short term economic gain to appreciate the timeless value of this river.

Please keep the SF as it is! AG ., . "

Hey im a raft Guide and this beautiful section of country has so much to offer that is constantly being impeded on becuase individuals want to bring back fossil fuels and other harmful practices to our nature. We need to stop looking to the past for help on what to do with our future! We are smarter than ever and have ample ways to produce fuel and other things we need to try to find new ways to harness these energies I stead of constantly trying to go back to fossil fuels that are known to destroy our planet! ., .

I support the NO ACTION ALTERNATIVE 5 in the Stibnite Goldmine DEIS. This will be a tragedy with monumental loss and destruction that Is not acceptable in any way shape or form.

Don't be greedy for some boom bust economic BS.

Moving forward with this project would not only adversely impact my personal enjoyment of this public resource through whitewater paddling, camping and fishing

"It is also a region of the country that I call home and value tremendously for its outdoor recreation opportunities. The DEIS clearly states that all of the alternatives presented, apart from Alternative 5, would adversely affect federally listed endangered fish species, their habitat, and the watershed's water quality and quantity. . Please keep the health and welfare of our Salmon River a priority."

Please stop prioritizing profits over our environment. Your children will see the horrifying effects of climate change, so please do not go forward with the mine.

It is incredibly important to me personally that the Forest Service protect this major tributary to the Wild and Scenic Salmon River, .

These beautiful pristine rivers are too rare in our country to be harvested of their resources for anything but recreation and conservation. Please do everything in your power to stop this mine so we can continue to enjoy the beauty of the salmon river watershed for years to come.

Leave S fork Salmon alone. It is a treasure as it is. It has been mined before, leave it to recover.

We need to leave some spaces untouched and this is one of them. ., .

Do you really want to destroy something so beautiful that is enjoyed by so many across the world? I have just got into the sport of white water kayaking and this is a stretch of river I have been looking forward to running. It it's close to home and, from what I heard and not yet had the chance to experience, a beautiful land scape and amazing adventure.

I oppose and object to this mining project! As a whitewater boater, this is a sacred section of river that should be protected. The state of Idaho is renown for its high quality whitewater.

The awful effects of this mine are FOREVER. PLEASE PLEASE PLEASE DO NOT LET THIS MINE BE BUILT. This venture is clearly near sighted myopic and will negatively impact a broad spectrum of resources down stream and over the next century. Please consider our public lands and our natural resources.

it's hard to express in words how special of a place this is. Pristine wilderness in its purest form. While paddling down these rivers in a kayak your main priority is too focus on running the rapids however in this beautiful environment it's hard to take your eyes of the towering cliffs and surreal mountains jutting up from the riverbanks.

It is by far one of the most special in the lower 48. To think that Midas Gold cares more about a rock than the preservation of this outstanding landscape is hard to comprehend. The damage a gold mine would do to this landscape would be irreversible and would destroy one of Idaho's natural beauties for future generations to enjoy not to mention the severe harm it would do to rivers downstream and fish throughout the south salmon corridor. I ask that you please consider the permanent harm that could be done to one of America's last truly wild places before selfishly sacrificing it all for money.

The south fork of the salmon is a place myself, and my family have been enjoying for many years.

The South Salmon River is an amazing resource as it is. The river is only a small part of a much bigger ecosystem, yet the river is also the foundation for the environment. There is no substitute for natural spaces once they have been destroyed they cannot be repaired. Any damage done to the environment in the Stibnite area will cause damage to every part of the downstream watershed all the way to its confluence with the Snake River and the Colombia River. Please choose Alternative 5. The rivers of the South Fork Salmon watershed contain world-class whitewater that paddlers from across the country and the world travel to Idaho to visit.

It will also impact birds.

I am currently raising a 4 year old who loves water. I urge you to recognize the need to preserve unique whitewater for future generations!

I value the rivers and spectacular whitewater resources of Idaho, , , .

Moving forward with this project would not only adversely impact this public resource through whitewater paddling, camping and fishing,

We have to keep our rivers clean, and help the wildlife that relies on the river. Please help the salmon!

"Surrendering I disturbed public land to mining interests is a short sighted decision. There are plenty stories of mining accidents and environmental deterioration caused by private companies that only veil for their own interests. Mining regulations don't take into consideration the moral corruption of people that will only look to comply when necessary to avoid fines but do not care for the environment and will risk the fines if the monetary return is higher. Keep the rivers and spectacular whitewater resources of Idaho as they are. .

Thank you for keeping our rivers and lands free of risks."

I'm please, please asking you to reconsider how a move like this will effect those of us who basically live on the water. Our rivers and lands need to be protected. This is a monumental resource that belongs to Idahoans, and a big reason why people want to move and live here. Not only would this affect us Idahoan lifers, it could stop the monumental growth we've seen in population in the past few years.

Over the past decade, I have kayaked and fished numerous rivers in Idaho. One of the most spectacular for both of these activities is the East Fork of the South Fork of the Salmon River. The East Fork of the South Fork of the Salmon River is a truly world class whitewater stream and arguably the best Cutthroat Trout fishery in the entire Salmon River drainage. Further downstream, the South Fork Salmon Canyon provides a unique wilderness river experience that draws paddlers from all over the world. Fishermen and paddlers support outfitters and guides that make up part of the outdoor recreation industry providing truly sustainable jobs for today and the future. In 2017, outdoor recreation contributed \$88.7 billion dollars the U.S. economy and provided 7.1 million jobs (<https://outdoorindustry.org/advocacy/>). Unlike ephemeral mining jobs that disappear with exhausted ore deposits, these jobs can support Idahoans indefinitely. Risking these sustainable resources for gold makes this an especially foolish undertaking as more than 92% of newly mined gold goes into jewelry, investments, or reserves (<https://www.statista.com/statistics/299609/gold-demand-by-industry-sector-share/>). Due to my experience kayaking and fishing in this drainage, it is important to me the Forest Service protect this watershed.

"As a human species, we need to protect the last remaining wilderness and intact ecosystems in this world. This is one of those areas. As one of many who makes a yearly pilgrimage to recreate on the South Fork of the Salmon River I can tell you that disturbing this fragile ecosystem should not be considered as this will negatively impact fishermen, kayakers, campers, and many many more users. As a tributary of the Main Salmon, the pollution created by a mine at the headwaters of the South Fork will have negative impacts on this stretch as well. Thousands upon thousands of families and children commercially raft the section of the Main Salmon downstream of the confluence of the South Fork and Main every year.

Allowing mining and the pollution it emits to occur on a tributary of this river is a travesty and is going to have negative health effects on all users of these river stretches that the mine will impact for years and years to come.

Please do not do this. The forest service should be for the people, not corporate interests. This is public land. Not corporate land. Keep it pristine, keep it public."

I love the South Fork Salmon and value it for its inherent scenic and recreational opportunities, not to mention the immeasurable value the South Fork Salmon provides wildlife. The DEIS makes clear that apart from Alternative 5, all other Alternatives would adversely impact the inherent scenic and recreational opportunities as well as negatively impact wildlife, their habitat, and the quality and quantity of the watershed's water. As an owner of these lands, I do not support their development. The proposed expanded mining activity constitutes an unacceptable risk to the watershed and unacceptable impacts to MY recreational opportunities. Thank you.

"Why on earth would you permit this project. The world doesn't need any more gold. We all need wild places that heal the soul.

Moving forward with this project would adversely impact my personal enjoyment of this public resource through whitewater paddling, camping and fishing"

" As a United States citizen, I have had the opportunity to live and work in many different regions of our beautiful country for public lands and recreation. After living in Alaska and witnessing pristine and natural salmon runs it is hard to understand why we continuously make decisions that can further destroy what we've already been known to significantly hamper. Salmon used to be the life blood of the west and deep into Idaho. We need to protect what we have left. Wild and Scenic Rivers were born out of a need to stop the uncontrollable desire to expand into every corner of our country, to protect our most precious resources for future generations. I think public lands are America's best idea and we have set a good example for the rest of the world. So why would a public lands agency allow such a high impact mining operation to enter into the headwaters of one of the most pristine and high profile Wild and Scenic waterways of the continental United States? It is your duty to protect and enhance the outstandingly remarkable values of these rivers. By allowing this mine to go into the headwaters, the USFS is threatening to degrade water quality, fish habitat, and recreational opportunities to the Salmon River system, a protected system. People from all over the world visit Idaho for its pristine recreational river opportunities; camping, fishing, whitewater, hot springs, amongst others.

Although leaving the resource untouched is undoubtedly priceless, putting a dollar value on tourism, natural resources, and salmon could help communicate how important this area is for our nation. Do we really need to allow a foreign company to threaten our last remaining pristine resources? I was truly sad to hear the amount of development this proposal entails. This is not reversible.

What are we truly gaining as a nation? What we are losing is clear. Please choose the no action alternative and support the USFS mission by caring for the land and serving the people to meet the needs of our current and future generations. It's critical now more than ever that we make decisions supporting the greatest good for the greatest number."

" I was born and raised in Idaho, and treasure my memories of the South Fork of the Salmon watershed as a resident of Idaho and later as a visitor. My views are that of an independent individual who values resource protection but also the careful development of resources when warranted. I would like to voice my support for Alternative 5, or No Action per the NEPA process. The land in its current state has tremendous value for wildlife and recreation. While I am a supporter of mining activity where necessary, I do not believe that extraction primarily of Gold and Silver justifies the significant reduction of the quality of the resource in its current state. I know that regional residents may value the economic stimulus in this proposal; at the same time, I think the Forest Service does more good to the economic value of the region in the long run by curtailing activities such as this one.

Alternatives 1-4 present adverse impacts to endangered fish species; living in Alaska I can tell you that there are few resources as important to return to a thriving state in Idaho as Salmon. For the people and wildlife that make the South Fork of the Salmon Watershed home, please consider Alternative 5--No Action. "

As someone who values being outside, values natural resources, values responsible use of those resources, and someone who really really fucking LOVES kayaking, I am writing to ask that you do not permit the proposed gold mine in the headwaters of the South Fork of the Salmon river. I'm just a dude who likes to be outside, and let me tell you the SF Salmon watershed is a fucking gem of a place. I've kayaked all over the US and Canada, and I struggle to think of a place that I appreciate as much as the South Fork. Between the scenery, the whitewater, and the people I've met in the process of running the river, the SF is a world class river that has value far and

beyond any gold they can take out of the ground. The crystal clear water, fish, animals, and beaches would all be irreversibly damaged by the extraction of Gold through cyanide leaching in the headwaters, and that would be bad. Going to the SF and the other beautiful rivers in Idaho is something that brings me back every year and is a highlight of my summer each time. I used to work as a guide on the lower Salmon, work that was only possible due to the water quality coming downstream from the headwaters, and the people coming on the trips provided jobs and money for hundreds of people in Riggins alone and I can only imagine brought a ton of money into Idaho and into the communities that needed it. This would all be destroyed by the reduction in water quality and quantity that would result from the proposed mining in the headwaters. The whitewater in the summer, the hunting and fishing in fall through spring, etc, would all be destroyed were this mine to continue. Also like this last part is obvious but the company proposing the mine is named after a king we use as a parable for short term thinking and greed. He chose greed and being able to turn everything he touched into gold without the long term thinking of 'how the fuck am i gonna eat' and he died for it. While I'm not saying you will die if you allow this mine (you're gonna die anyways, we all die), its especially stupid to permanently destroy a natural wonder in the hunt for riches in the name of a guy who killed himself with his greed. I mean come on, you really gonna let this happen? It'd be ordained that things would go terribly, there's no way 'Midas Gold' doesn't destroy everything (the river, the fish, the water, the recreation, the money, the jobs, etc) in the name of short term profit. COME ON! The environmental study this is based on doesn't deal with the long term effects of a massive tailing pile held behind what is sure to be a shitty dam, and as we all know corporations love to clean up after themselves and definitely will not leave a big old mess that no one could have foreseen, no way. If you're going to go through with this (please don't) at least make sure your environmental analysis actually spans the length of the impact from the mine and not solely the setup and operation of the mine. That cyanide in the tailings aint just gonna evaporate. Anyways, those are my thoughts, please don't do it, feel free to call me to discuss if you have questions. Cheers, Ian Hennebery

One of my favorite family memories was a trip my daughter then aged 12. One part of the trip was soaking in a hot spring on the side of the south salmon along the south salmon road, as well as crossing paths with a grey wolf. This gold mine would threaten that pure wilderness area and make it so other families like our to have that memory.

The South Fork Salmon means so much to me! This place is unparalleled in beauty. I want my kids to be able to paddle this river one day. The effects of this mine would be long lasting and detrimental to the rivers eco system. The money from this mine will quickly dry up. Eco tourism dollars are much more likely to turn a profit on the long run WHILE protecting this area. Please help is protect this wonderful place for years to come!

This river means so much to me and has for decades. .

I have been whitewater kayaking and rafting for 25 years. I've run rivers all over the globe, from the Grand Canyon in Arizona to the White Nile in Uganda. The South Fork of the Salmon River is hands-down my favorite whitewater river, and it has become an annual trip for me. It breaks my heart to think that it could be damaged by mining interests.

Environmental Impacts and related economic and social impacts are as follows. This further negatively impacts economic vitality related to tourism and recreation of surrounding communities and those in Idaho who depend upon the integrated watershed of Salmon River systems and the hundreds of thousands of visitors each year to our National Forests. This number and economic benefits are growing immensely annually, with a recorded record number of visitors and related economic benefits in summer 2020. The type of mining Midas uses is called cyanide leach vat -this type of mining is already banned in Montana, Wisconsin, and a few counties in Colorado because of their affinity to fail. What is the mitigation plan for the trucking cyanid in along South Fork Salmon, Bunlong Creek and Johnson. This will also effects neighboring creeks such as Fiddle creek, a currently unaffected waterway (also viable spawning habitat) will become non existent as it fills up with waste rock ("development rock" as stated by midas) from mining ore. The current DEIS lacks this significant information, which is significant and necessary for review and consideration. Fish habitats are already at risk. The Chinook are protected under the Endangered Species act. DEIS States: "following closure and reclamation, the overall net effect will be a loss of both quality and quantity of habitat compared to existing conditions." Fish will face a decrease in productivity related to decrease in flow, increase in stream temps from current summer high of 17.4[deg]C to 25.5[deg]C (not considering effects of climate change), critical habitat will decrease by 26%. Midas

claims that fish tunnel restoration has been successful in the past. During the tunnel construction the DEIS States, "an anticipated 7,500 chinook salmon could be potentially affected by injury or death from the removal of just one of the barriers** planned for removal". Midas cites references to support this

The South Fork Salmon is already a 'gold mine' of whitewater, scenic beauty and wildlife. These wild places cannot be replaced. We have a responsibility to not let these amazing places be jeopardized by the desire for monetary gain. Money could never create a place like the South Fork Salmon but it could destroy it. ., .

"I am writing to voice my opposition to the Stibnite gold mine in the South Fork Salmon drainage. I have been paddling Idaho's rivers for nearly ten years, and was lucky enough to paddle the iconic South Fork Salmon five times this year. People come from all over the world to experience the pristine water quality and fishing on the rivers here. Clean water is not only crucial to a healthy ecosystem, but a basic human right. Because the Stibnite mine poses a threat to water quality, the ecosystem, and communities downstream, I am asking that the USFS take alternative 5, the "No Action Alternative" to Midas Gold's proposed mine. There are a number of concerning points, or lack thereof in Midas Gold's DEIS. The DEIS fails to acknowledge the cultural importance of the South Fork historical range of the Nimiipuu (Nez Perce) people. A number of treaty violations have occurred over the last several hundred years after the Nimiipuu were driven from their land. Salmon decline and loss of this historical land have had significant impacts to the tribe and their way of life. Further decline of Salmon and their habitat would only worsen this, and the lack of consideration of the tribe only perpetuates the ongoing travesties that have been committed against them.

One of the biggest threats to water quality is the leaching of mining chemicals into the drainage. The DEIS clearly states that the tailing pond liners that Midas Gold intends to use are untested and "The liner system proposed does not currently meet regulatory requirements." The area is also prone to large earthquakes, as we have observed this year. This poses a threat because an earthquake could cause catastrophic failure of the tailings ponds. Loss of water quality would further endanger the many species of fish such as Bull Trout, Chinook Salmon, and Steelhead that already struggle to survive in their severely altered habitat. The diversion of water around the mining site will likely also cause an increase in water temperature that will be detrimental to the fish. Transportation of hazardous materials poses a threat to the surrounding communities. The increased traffic alone will cause increased pollution of the rivers, and the possibility of a spill is de As an individual who values the rivers and spectacular whitewater resources of Idaho, I am writing to support Alternative 5, the No Action Alternative outlined in the Stibnite Gold Project's Draft Environmental Impact Statement. I am not writing representing a "special interest group," I am writing as a concerned citizen and stakeholder who utilizes these public lands in their current undiminished state, lands for which I am an owner of and for which the Forest Service is directed to manage in the public interest. The rivers of the South Fork Salmon watershed contain world class whitewater that paddlers from across the country and the world travel to Idaho to visit. The DEIS clearly states that all of the alternatives presented, apart from Alternative 5, would adversely affect federally listed endangered fish species, their habitat, and the watershed's water quality and quantity. It is incredibly important to me personally that the Forest Service protect the outstanding water quality of this major tributary to the Wild and Scenic Salmon River, as this river system is vitally important for native and endangered fish, outdoor recreation, and the economic vitality of the local communities that surround it.

Moving forward with this project would not only adversely impact my personal enjoyment of this public resource through whitewater paddling, camping and fishing, it would negatively impact all of the people of Idaho who rely on the hundreds of thousands of visitors each year to our National Forests. The [Truncated in Original]"

Idaho rivers should be preserved and protected. As a mother of 2 and someone who values the rivers and spectacular whitewater resources of Idaho

We love to paddle this area it would be a travesty to scar this area again.

As each year passes, we learn more and more about the negative impacts of resource extraction and habitat loss through the Inter governmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) and this is clearly an example of when we can prevent a disaster to a cherished public resource by not letting the disaster start in the first place. Please pursue Alternative 5.

I am so incredibly strongly against this. Precious metals aren't precious but protecting natural treasures is precious.

This mining operation has no right, makes absolutely zero sense to be in that location as we lose more and more

of our natural resources that can never be replaced. This is truly an abomination if you've ever seen the beauty of that area and value Continuing to natural and wild areas. I ask you to reconsider this one time harvest for some gold at the expense of permanently damaging something that cannot be replaced.

I am writing as an individual passionate about the South Fork Salmon, who believes that it is a truly unique and special place. I am a New Zealander by birth, and even with all of the amazing rivers NZ contains, I consider the South Fork Salmon as one of the most impressive places I have visited. The rivers of the South Fork Salmon watershed contain world class whitewater, scenery, and wilderness experience that I've personally travelled significant distances to visit as have many of my other foreign and American friends. .

Wild Idaho is worth more than gold. I fly fish that river and would hate see the impacts presented in the DEIS. You don't get that type of fisheries all over. Please have a more sustainable plan or don't proceed. Tyler Hildebrand

" Clean water is the most valuable resource on the planet. As more watersheds become polluted, and especially in the American West where future drought is an ongoing concern, access to clean water will only become increasingly valuable because it is critical to supporting human populations. The threat to this watershed, in the form of the pollution from mining activities, is without demonstrable public good. Mining activities benefit the few, who generally include non-local stakeholders. And the benefits are short lived. Indeed the goal of mining is to extract all resources from an area until there is nothing left to sell. The consequent environmental damage, however, will extend for decades and decades, even under the most ideal conditions for regeneration. A single accident involving the storage of 100 million tons of contaminated mining material, or a leakage of cyanide during the process, would be a catastrophic event.

Effected would be not just a remote stretch of river, which in the case of the South Fork of the Salmon is home to world- class hot springs, camping, fishing, hunting, and whitewater paddling, but the watersheds downstream including the Wild and Scenic Main Salmon, and the Snake River. This impacts not just recreation but agriculture in 3 states, Idaho, Oregon, and Washington. Closer to home, if a final breeding ground for Chinook salmon is poisoned, the effects on wildlife will be felt far from the rivers edge. The salmon anchor an ecosystem that includes deer and elk populations. As the Headwaters of the South Fork of the Salmon become less habitable, animal populations will become stressed in the surrounding areas for hundreds of miles in all directions. Not only will hunting be affected from Boise to McCall to Challis, but pressure on animal populations will also bring more predators, in the form of wolves and mountain lions, in contact with human populations. Hunting, fishing, camping, hot springs, and whitewater paddling are all renewable resources with minimal environmental impact and an incredibly broad public benefit. This resource can not only continue without being used up, it can increase its output, as seen in the large jump in outdoor recreation within the past year. Indeed, recreation ranks above ranching and agriculture as the leading source of revenue in Idaho. And of course, the public benefit to agriculture and clean water is as broad and incalculable as possible. It is no overstatement to suggest that the Headwaters of the South Fork of the Salmon are among a handful of headwater regions, most within a hundred miles, that are the initial source of water for the greater Pacific Northwest. "

Some places are too special to not protect. We will not stand by for more damage!

The rivers of the South Fork Salmon watershed contain world class whitewater that I hope to be one of the many paddlers from across the country and the world to come visit and partake. The South Fork Salmon River is finally healing from the scars of past mining activity, and the impacts of renewed mining with ineffective restoration mitigations is an unacceptable risk to this watershed.

There is no need to make this mine and it's introduction will seriously impact my visits to Idaho and the resulting dollars I spend in the economy. The South Folk of the Salmon is an amazing resource and is no place to risk with a mine. No MINES IN THE SOUTH FORK.

" One of the closest towns to the South Fork Salmon. I have grown up in the Frank Church Wilderness and on these rivers. To see this river become scarred and polluted by a mine would not only hurt the environment, it would hurt the people who have so many memories attached to the place, and hurt the future generations trying to experience an untouched wilderness.

The DEIS clearly states that all of the alternatives presented, apart from Alternative 5, would adversely affect federally listed endangered fish species, their habitat, and the watershed's water quality and quantity. . "

This river saved my soul and showed me some of the best whitewater I have ever known. This place is not only

sacred to the natives before us but is sacred to anyone that has the fortune of running its rapids.

We need more clean water and healthy ecosystems, not more gold. I am gravely concerned for the South Fork of the Salmon watershed if the Stibnite Gold Project moves forward. This is a vital resource for Idaho and the greater country. We cannot afford any possible sacrifice to this pristine watershed.

p.s. i really need this river to stay the way it is. it is much to special of a place to be interfered with.

I took a trip down the middle fork of the salmon when I was 8 years old and those memories and experiences spawned a love for whitewater and the outdoors in general that could not be replaced with anything else. Being able to use our public lands and keeping them clean and free of chemical pollution has is something I am extremely passionate about this mine could compromise the entire watershed for generations to come.

PLEASE don't let this mine happen. This is one of the most beautiful places in the US, and approval of the mine would go a long way towards damaging it irreversibly. , , .

I hope you consider that supporting the interests of the environment is the right thing to do.

Water is more precious than gold.

I oppose any further development of gold mining operations in the South Fork drainage. We should be working towards further remediation of historic abandoned mines, not permitting new ones. This watershed is of critical importance to sustaining downstream habitat, and a wild place to be preserved for future generations. I highly value the rivers and spectacular whitewater resources of Idaho, and , , . The South Fork Salmon River deserves protection, and to be enjoyed by all who venture into its wild currents.

"I first paddled a kayak down the South Fork of the Salmon in 1979, I have seen a lot of healing of the land since then.

Please do not allow a mine to undo all of the recovery work that has taken place on the South Fork. This is perhaps the outstanding overnight river trip in the nation. , , . "

. All mines have a horrible history of pollution and degradation of land. They commonly go bankrupt and leave tax payers with the financial burden of cleaning up negative environmental impacts.

Idaho is known for some really beautiful areas. I love to take my sister and her family camping in my state. , , .

I love visiting Idaho for the pristine natural experience , , .

"The DEIS i clear that all of the alternatives, except Alternative 5, would adversely affect federally listed endangered fish species, their habitat, and the watershed's water quality and quantity. It is incredibly important to me personally that the Forest Service protects the outstanding water quality of this major tributary to the Wild and Scenic Salmon River. This river system is crucial for native and endangered fish, outdoor recreation, and the economic vitality of the local communities that surround it.

Please implement Alternative 5."

We have a precious little left of pristine wilderness and clean natural rivers in our country. I am writing as a concerned citizen and stakeholder who utilizes these public lands in their current undiminished state,, , .

I was a member of the first team to paddle the 'River of Return.' This is a packraft trip that starts at Corn Creek, runs the Main, then we hiked up the South Fork for a day paddle, then hiked over Chicken Ridge into the head of Big Creek, and then ran Big Creek and Middle Fork back to Corn Creek. The South Fork canyon was wild country with bears, deer, and elk sighted, and the water was clean and beautiful. A mine at the head of the South Fork that benefits the wealthy is not acceptable to the large population of citizens who value this area for its wild qualities

I am an individual, not a PAC or SIG. At least once a year I visit that area to float/paddle the S Fork Salmon river, and I'm shocked the USFS would even consider such a mega proposal. Isn't the USFS spozed to manage our lands by what's best in the public interest? How could you kowtow to such Corporate interests? Trump and his corporate allies will soon be gone, plan ahead for your career/pension by distancing yourself from these destructive entities and PROTECT our lands in every possible way. Mineral extraction should be done on private land, and then under strict govt. supervision.

The forest service has been given the esteemed role of stewardship for our National Forests. As a veteran, and a taxpayer, I would expect that you live up to that role in protecting our natural resources.

The rivers and spectacular whitewater resources of Idaho are a rare gift. I am writing as a concerned citizen and hiker who utilizes these public lands in their current undiminished state, The rivers of the South Fork Salmon

watershed contain world-class whitewater that paddlers from across the country and the world travel to Idaho to visit. . but it would also negatively impact all of the people of Idaho who rely on the hundreds of thousands of visitors each year to our National Forests. The South Fork Salmon River is finally healing from the scars of past mining activity, and the impacts of expanded mining activity represent an unacceptable risk to this watershed. Let's discover a brighter future instead of repeating past mistakes. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Please protect the outstanding water quality of this major tributary to the Wild and Scenic Salmon River, please protect my ability to camp and raft on this river without the negative impacts of mining. Please don't repeat the mistakes of past mining activity on the South Fork Salmon River. Thank you for considering my comments.

Too much of our natural world has been destroyed for a short term profit! Now is the time to take seriously our stewardship of the planet that sustains the human race. . , .

These are lands for which I am a joint owner of, along with all US citizens. I remind you that the Forest Service is directed to manage in the public interest. The rivers of the South Fork Salmon watershed contain world class whitewater that paddlers from across the country and around the world come to Idaho to go down and spend time along. In addition to destroying the river for human paddlers, the DEIS clearly states that all the alternatives besides 5 would adversely affect federally listed endangered fish species, their habitat, and the watershed's water quality and quantity. New mining along the South Fork Salmon River represents an unacceptable risk to this watershed.

We need to preserve these lands and find other alternatives to destroying the precious and minimal natural public lands like these. I write as a concerned citizen and stakeholder who utilizes these public lands in their current undiminished state, It's also a prime destination for fishermen and nature lovers like myself. . I implore you to save this natural resource for our children and their children's children.

My family and I frequently recreate in and around the public lands of the Salmon River drainage. The area is breathtakingly beautiful in its natural state containing unmatched whitewater recreation that paddlers from across the country travel to visit. Permitting a mine in the headwaters of the South Fork will forever damage these pristine waterways. Furthermore, As a stakeholder, I urge the Forest Service to protect the outstanding water quality of this major tributary to the Wild and Scenic Salmon River, . My family and I will be directly affected if a mine is permitted in this sensitive area. And it is unconscionable that such a project would be contemplated given the irreversible effects it will have on the local ecosystem.

I strongly oppose the Stibnite Gold Project and ask that the South Fork Salmon River be protected from this environmental disaster. Please do not stand by and watch another one of our natural wonders become destroyed by mining. Please protect the South Fork Salmon.

Do not allow mining to occur on this valuable recreation river!

The South Salmon has already been degraded by decades of mining and logging activity, and the Stibnite project is a terrible project for the river. In my circle of whitewater paddlers, the South Salmon is regarded as one of the best rivers in the world, let alone Idaho. I want to protect what makes Idaho so special- its vast and unspoiled wilderness areas and public lands.

"I am quite concerned about this proposed open-pit mine on the Payette National Forest, which is my land by birthright.

Although the DEIS suggests that my concerns might be mitigated, we all know that these things rarely work out as planned. In view of that, we must step back and consider more carefully the potential affects of the proposed project. In particular, I am concerned that the mine would threaten endangered salmon and steelhead. We already have spent billions of dollars trying to recover these fish, and the money already spent should be weighed against the the benefits of the mine. Furthermore, the proposed mine is sited in the territory of the Nez Perce Tribe, who I understand vigorously oppose the mine, and social justice demands that their voices be heard. In view of everything to this point, I support Alternative 5, at least until the effects can be considered more carefully."

Despite the wild nature of the Main Fork of the Salmon it is nothing when compared to the South Fork. Idaho is home to more roadless and wild rivers that anywhere in the Lower 48 and we cannot give up a world class asset for temporary extraction that can cause irreversible damage.

I travel to Idaho nearly a dozen times a year to raft, camp, and fish in the area near this proposed mine. I have been visiting this area for it's solitude and scenery for two decades and hope to do so for decades more.

"I am a native Idahoan who chooses to still live here because of the amazing and boundless outdoor opportunities our state offers. Areas such as the South Fork of the Salmon River in the Payette National Forest are a rarity anymore due to human activity, despite once being the norm on our continent. As such, it is paramount that we do not sacrifice our long-term ecological health, more sustainable outdoor recreation economy and salmon habitat for short-term gain for a for-profit company who does not care about Idaho or its people. According to the U.S. Travel Association, Idaho's tourism economy is worth \$3.7 BILLION (<https://commerce.idaho.gov/tourism-resources/>). That's our third largest industry! I can tell you that people aren't coming here for museums, concerts or events, they are coming for our amazing outdoor resources. Building a gold mine at the headwaters of the South Fork of the Salmon would jeopardize this industry that promises more long-term economic health than extractive industries. The New West is upon us, it's time to embrace it and say goodbye to industries that show up, pillage our land and leave without cleaning up after themselves. .

Once our salmon are gone, they are not coming back. Please do not erase decades of hard work to keep salmon swimming in the river named after them. Mining leaves a lasting mark that is unacceptable on our landscape. We do not have the laws to enforce clean up, and who sees the profits from desecrating OUR public lands? Not me, not you."

I have personally paddled the South Fork Salmon and am saddened by the thought of an open pit mine in this amazing area, threatening the river, headwaters, and all that is downstream. It's not worth the risk. Having worked as an engineer on many mine reclamation sites in ID, WA, AK, and the Yukon (Canada), I know from experience that these proposals promise everything and deliver the absolute minimum leaving threatened environments, costly treatment systems, and taxpayers left holding the bag. Please deny this proposal. In addition to this statement, I agree with the good and well-articulated points made by American Whitewater, below. Thank you, Mark Kacmarcik Wenatchee, WA .

Please do not allow short-term profits to outweigh the future of endangered fish, as well as for current and future generations of Americans that deserve this wild river.

We ALL need Clean Water! ., .

I love the Salmon River just the way it is. Please protect it from unnecessary mining encroachment. ., .

As a whitewater user, fisherman and biologist I embrace the idea of being environmentally and ecologically aware in my actions. I follow the reduce, reuse and recycle lifestyle and use my purchasing power with an eye towards conservation. Sadly I see a continuous disregard for the precious resources we depend upon. ., .

Protect our public lands! The short term economic gain (for only a few individuals) is not worth the years of environmental cost that future generations will have to repay. STOP the shortsighted destruction of OUR lands! ., .

I am one of those that travelled across the country to raft on the Salmon River this summer. There is not a more stunning backdrop to rafting that I have ever been on. .

In the face of climate change and fisheries population declines resultant from decades of damming and unsuccessful hatchery management, opening a pit mine in the watershed of one of America's greatest wild rivers is irresponsible and unjustifiable. Salmon and steelhead are invaluable natural resources that we must be managing ever more carefully as we confront the impacts of climate change on our fisheries. As someone who values the rivers and spectacular whitewater resources of Idaho

Presumably, the project is proposed for financial gain, but recreational use of public lands creates more jobs (and long term jobs), as well as more state and local income than a mining project. Given that these are public lands, the decision that most benefits the public good should be chosen. That would be Alternative 5, the No Action Alternative.

"Let the past historical record be noted. There have been many western America mining operations started since 1872. Mines were made all across the western United States. The legacy of past mining is abysmal. A reasonable person would have to ask why is the subsequent environmental record so poor?

People would wonder why government efforts to require safe mining have been slipshod? Some answers are very clear - the government has not been stringent enough. Companies have used every means possible to keep it that way. Even more to note in the current climate, efforts to construct activities are clearly not using high enough safety factors. The result is failure upon failure upon failure. Dams have had high failure, waters have been polluted, and wildlife has been lost."

The rivers of the South Fork Salmon watershed contain world-class whitewater that paddlers from across the country and the world travel to Idaho to visit.

I recently learned that there is a proposal to build a gold mine in the headwaters of the Salmon River. I was very sad to hear this. I have a close connection to this river through a family whitewater and camping trip on the Salmon many years ago. I would hope that this river would be protected for me and my kids to someday take the same trip and have the same wonderful wilderness experience. Tom Pinckney 1839 Westview Rd Charlottesville VA 22903

Consider the economic contribution that this mine will make ONCE. Subtract the cost of potential future damages. Then consider the economic contribution of a LIFETIME of recreation uses. We have an economic incentive to say no to mining.

Although my husband & I do not paddle the rivers any more, we are still concerned with a mine in such a pristine area. Not good at all. .

Some of my earliest time on the rivers was in Idaho, in this area. I do not want this area impacted. If mining were 'clean', if accidents never happened, this would be a different conversation. History has shown, here in the US and all over the world, that even the best protocols will allow unrecoverable destruction.

The rivers of the South Fork Salmon watershed contain world class habitat for endangered fish.

I do not understand why as a nation we continue to threaten, with ill conceived mining projects, our most valuable resource-clean water. .

I do not think grubbing around for gold to enrich someone is a adequate reason to damage this habitat. Please do not move forward with this.

. I am not writing representing a "special interest group", merely as a concerned citizen with a deep and abiding connection with the entire Salmon-Challis ecosystem, of which the South Fork of the Salmon River is inseparable. I've spent many years working with the Montana Conservation Corps and the Forest Service maintaining trails throughout the Salmon-Challis National Forest. I've also been blessed to enjoy the world-class whitewater as a paddler on the Main and South Forks of the Salmon River, these rivers are some of the most spectacular in the WORLD, truly! Nowhere else can you find the corridor's unique culture of private inholdings and their eccentric caretakers, beautiful natural hot springs, spectacular trout and in-land salmon fishing, fun and challenging whitewater all woven into the meandering river and it's hypnotic chorus. Every year I along with countless friends travel annually the Salmon-Challis area for fishing and paddling, spending thousands of dollars on this vacation. .

The South Fork of the Snake and the connecting ecosystems are irreplaceable. The proposed mining project should not go forward. I have traveled the world in my profession and I have not seen any lands more unique and important than the Snake River drainage. This mining project must not be allowed. The impacts of expanded mining activity represents an unacceptable risk to this watershed. Sincerely, Nick Norton

It is extremely important to me personally that the Forest Service protect the outstanding water quality of this major tributary to the Wild and Scenic Salmon River

The mission of the USDA Forest Service is to sustain the health, diversity, and productivity of the Nation's forests and grasslands to meet the needs of present and future generations. Clearly the scientific evidence has NOT been fully processed or understood since the proposal is for 3 open pits with cyanide leach processes and would leave 100 million tons of contaminated mining materials behind a 450-foot high dam in the headwaters of Wild and Scenic Rivers. Forest Service is directed to manage in the public interest., . it would negatively impact all of the people of Idaho who rely on clean drinking water, viable in tact ecosystems, and the hundreds of thousands of visitors each year to our National Forests. Please do NOT permit any of the alternatives except Alternative 5 - the NO Action Alternative.

I and thousands of others in the current generation have not yet had the opportunity to float the south fork.

I also object to this project being built on Nez Perce land, because it is their land. Moving forward with this project would negatively impact all of the people of Idaho who rely on the hundreds of thousands of visitors each year to our National Forests.

This is also a huge economic boon for this area while keeping the current state free from bad water management, wildlife degradation, and pollution. It is incredibly important to me, personally, that the Forest Service protect the outstanding water quality of this major tributary to the Wild and Scenic Salmon River. This

river system is vitally important for native and endangered fish, outdoor recreation, and the economic vitality of the local communities that surround it. Moving forward with this project would not only adversely impact my personal enjoyment of this public resource through whitewater paddling, hiking the area, camping and fishing, I am writing as a concerned citizen and stakeholder who utilizes public lands and appreciates them in their current undiminished state, lands for which I am an owner of and for which the Forest Service is directed to manage in the public interest - including protection of environmental and cultural resources. This resource would be greatly diminished from the impacts of mining as well as fish species, habitat, water quality and quantity. I ask the Forest Service to protect the outstanding water quality of this major tributary to the Wild and Scenic Salmon River, . Allowing mining in this location would negatively impact my personal enjoyment of this public resource and I believe it will impact all of the people of Idaho, including those in low income or rural communities near this river, who rely on economic impact of tourism from the hundreds of thousands of visitors each year to our National Forests. We have an immense responsibility to steward the lands and waters of our federal public lands for the greatest good and the greatest number over the longest term. Mining strips many of the benefits for the greatest number of people - especially since alternative opportunities to generate energy to fuel our lifestyle and economies exist. Let's do better than our past generations and work towards a future that places value for intact ecosystems and public enjoyment over resource extraction industry based economics.

I have been lucky enough to kayak down the South Fork Salmon River from its confluence with the east fork south fork and into the main salmon. It is a one of a kind river in the world that deserves protection so current and future generations can enjoy it!

Moving forward with this project would not only adversely impact my personal enjoyment of this public resource through whitewater paddling and camping,

This area needs protecting and the viability of mines along with risks do not make this a good move.

it would negatively impact all of the people of Idaho who also enjoy all that the river offers and rely on the hundreds of thousands of visitors each year to our National Forests. The South Fork Salmon River is finally healing from the scars of past mining activity, and the impacts of this proposed expanded mining activity represents an unacceptable risk to this watershed.

Please no mining on the South Fork of the Salmon. The fishery is worth more than it's weight in gold to the planet!

" I also want to add as a Montana resident, who is very aware of the environmental devastation caused by cyanide leach mining, I urge you not to go down that expensive and dangerous path. Despite the claims of better process a containment failure is inevitable.

Montanans banned cyanide leach mining and Idaho should too."

The Forest Service must protect the outstanding water quality of this major tributary to the Wild and Scenic Salmon River, . Moving forward with this project would adversely impact our personal enjoyment of the area, and would negatively impact all of the people of Idaho who rely on the hundreds of thousands of visitors each year to our National Forests.

Please, we must care for these waters for our future generations and for the animals that rely on them. Thank you.

Our natural resources--particularly our public lands--need more protection than ever., .

This is one of the sacred places for me. I make a pilgrimage to Idaho every spring to paddle camp and overall enjoy these rivers. I am extremely concerned about the current climate in Washington in regards to public lands. I feel protecting wonderful places used to be something both sides could get behind. Now it seems that neither side is doing very well at ensuring I have wild places to go recreate with my kids. Please do not go through with this mine.

The rivers of the South Fork Salmon watershed support fishes listed under the Endangered Species Act and are a critical component of the Pacific Northwest ecosystem. These rivers also contain world class whitewater that paddlers from across the country and the world travel to Idaho to visit. .

I travel to Idaho every year from California, and am considering moving there, because of the amazing whitewater, beautiful camping, and pristine clear waters of the salmon river. I love to visit the Salmon River area and the surrounding communities that are economically supported by recreational boating, fishing and tourism that the river brings. Mining pollution of the South Fork Salmon continuing downstream into the Wild and Scenic

Main Salmon would negatively impact some of the country's most sought out wilderness whitewater runs and the vitality of local communities. As someone from 'gold country' California, where in many rivers we cannot safely eat the fish we catch and mining scars abound, I can personally attest that the environmental costs to public lands last long after the economic boost of mining runs out. The DEIS clearly outlines the public costs to the watershed if expanded mining were allowed to move forward. I am a US citizen who uses these public lands for recreation and who trusts the Forest Service to protect the quality of my public spaces for my future use and my children's use. Out of all the alternatives under consideration, all except Alternative 5 would negatively affect endangered fish and their habitat, downstream water quality and flows. A preserved South Fork has significant recreational and economic value in its own right, and as a major tributary to the Wild and Scenic Main Salmon, the risk of negative downstream consequences are just not worth the potential short-term economic gains of this mining proposal.

" Paddlers from around the world travel to Idaho to visit the South Fork because of its beauty and whitewater. It's a very unique, beautiful river of which I am an owner of and for which the Forest Service is directed to manage in the public interest.

Damage to this area would be a tragedy. The water quality of this beautiful river is great right now. And this river is a major tributary to the extremely popular Wild and Scenic Salmon River. Doing anything to negatively effect this river system is irresponsible and egregious. For me, it is incredibly important to protect this area. Moving forward on this project would be a travesty that would impact me, my family, all of the thousands of people who travel to this area to enjoy these rivers. Not to mention, the people of Idaho who rely on these visitors as an important part of their economy. Expanding mining operations in this beautiful area is unacceptable. It's a terrible risk to this important watershed."

The rivers of Idaho have provided me with some of the most spectacular, wild, and magical moments of my life. as well as clean waters that house fish who have lived and mated here for millennia. I urge you to consider the impacts beyond those who benefit directly from this mine and think about the generations of people that will benefit from the pristine waters of this river for years to come.

The Salmon is no place for a gold mine. I've floated and fished the river. The risks to that incredible resource are simply not worth it. Deny the applications for a mine!

The proposed chemical extraction process with all of their inherent poisonous 'side effects' should be enough reason to deny proceeding especially when the region is still suffering from previous mechanical extraction methods!

" I had the great pleasure to raft the whitewater on a stretch of the Salmon for the first time this past summer and I can tell you: this river is a national treasure.

Therefore, this should be an easy choice. It is important to me personally, and it is important to my industry, that the Forest Service protect the outstanding water quality of this major tributary to the Wild and Scenic Salmon River, . Moving forward with this project would not only adversely impact my personal enjoyment of this public resource through whitewater paddling and camping "

I myself have paddled the S. Fork many times and highly value the unique terrain and history here. .

The South Fork of the Salmon is an incredible asset that could never be replicated. We make a pilgrimage from Colorado every year to spend a week kayaking the South Salmon and its tributaries. Allowing this mine would be horrible for the state of Idaho and every river runner in the world.

I am also extremely concerned that this project does not address tribal concerns and requests of the Nez Perce Tribe on their territory.

This part of Idaho is a national treasure and to allow it to be destroyed would show a complete and total lack of respect for nature, the indigenous people, and the people of Idaho. It's time to start paying attention to far reaching impacts of a project like this.

"In Colorado, a state with similar wilderness and water resources to Idaho, we have prioritized the health of our ecosystems because we know that if the environment is healthy, so will be the people that live in it, near it, and because of it. We also know a thing or two about mining here in CO and its impact on our watersheds. Given the economic draw of having a clear watershed in the South fork of the Salmon river, I'm shocked that new mining is even being proposed. Tourism would bring much more diverse spending to an area that could use a sustained economic and environmental recovery plan rather than a shortsighted stopgap that does damage in the short and

long term.

"

I have rafted the south fork of the Salmon River and observed the outdoor businesses associated with outdoor recreational use of this valuable, irreplaceable land. The negative impact on the outdoors industry, and the income generated by tourists using it must be weighed against any income a mine would generate. Also mines do not last forever and leave the resource depleted. Outdoor recreational use and ecotourism last forever and are a growing industry.

I am writing to please ask that we take a longer and harder look at the DEIS related to the Stibnite Gold Project. There is so much missing information and it must be addressed before this project moves forward.

I am an RN, event organizer and active outdoor enthusiast who wishes that there be a much deeper, more involved approach to the DEIS of the proposed Stibnite Mine above the East Fork and the South Fork Salmon Rivers. There is much more information needed and clarification before this project is considered. ., .

I am writing as an out-of-state visitor, bringing my tourist dollars to remote communities, who hired local guides to run the river, purchased groceries, ate in restaurants and stayed in hotels. I come because of utilizes these public lands in their current undiminished state.

I wonder if the economic gains associated with open pit mining are worth the potential economic losses in tourism dollars to local communities. Maybe it is worth it. But I am sad that we would consider allowing such a high intensity land use to damage such a critical resource for habitat, tourism and recreation. ., .

First off, this is horse shit. No mine, nor the dollars or jobs it will create, are worth damaging the last great undammed river in the lower 48. I've rafted and fished that river and climbed through those hills and I know its beauty. Why would we enrich the few at the expense of the many. Not including the asinine idea that the Federal Government has spent millions/billions on fish rehabilitation only to permit the mine and destroy all their hard work and investment.

Our wild and scenic rivers are an invaluable part of America's greatness.

Yes, me and my traveling, outdoor loving family strongly supports this important message. (TAO)

It is incredibly important to me that the Forest Service protect the outstanding water quality of this major tributary to the Wild and Scenic Salmon River. Moving forward with this project would not only adversely impact enjoyment of this public resource through whitewater paddling, camping and fishing,

If COVID-19 has done nothing else it has shown us how important it is to get outside and enjoy nature. It is truly stress relieving and rejuvenating.

. I believe that Alternative 5, the No Action Alternative outlined in the Stibnite Gold Project's Draft Environmental Impact Statement, should be approved. Approving any of these other alternatives is a danger to our environment and disrespects the indigenous people who were on these lands before us colonizers., .

I support and strongly urge that alternative #5, the no actin alternative of the Stibnite Gold Project Environmental Impact Statement is adopted. I travel to Idaho and the South Fork River watersheds at least once per year to enjoy the river setting, waters and wildlife. I want to let you know the river and its surroundings and its wildlife in its natural state has much value to me as I am sure my and other recreationalist coming to this area have to the communities in the area as well as to the communities we pass thru in route to the South Fork of the Salmon. It is my view keeping the area natural is best use, provides far more people recreational opportunity and economic benifit than development of a mine would have. A mine would benefit far fewer people, the benefits would be temporary and inevitably lead to a boom bust cycle and leave behind scars and potential environmental disasters which would become burdens on us the tax payers. Please do what is best for the majority and for the long term and select Alternative 5

The best years of my life were spent in the Salmon River region. This area is truly magical and needs to be preserved.

My time on the river this summer was just that: life-changing. Awe-inspiring. Stunning. It brought me closer to my soul. Lofty as that all sounds, these are the experiences that we as humans are programed to experience when we're in special places. These are the experiences that show us what it means to be a human and open up the opportunities to step into our best selves. These are the opportunities that are lost when we sacrifice the grandeur and the wildness of our lands to for-profit and exploitative interests. I am writing to you today to express my concern with the Gold Project, and to urge you--as a concerned citizen who truly values our rivers, and as

someone who spends a fair amount of money each year to recreate in Idaho and throughout the West--to support Alternative 5 if you must. The South Fork Salmon watershed is special, and protecting the fish species, their habitat, and the water quality is crucial.

I have rafted on the Salmon with a guiding company, and it was a wonderful experience. We need to safeguard our wild and scenic rivers from reckless exploitation. We are impoverishing future generations by destroying our country's natural national heritage. It is wrong to destroy these works of God for human greed. People of all political persuasions enjoy the outdoors, and particularly places of stellar beauty like Idaho's Salmon River. Recreation on the river supports jobs that do not negatively impact the environment, as mining does. Short term gain should not be more important than a treasure that should be kept pristine for generations.

Observing the wildlife and power of that beautiful river sets in my mind and memories as a life-changing experience. I remember how present the parks felt was in the management of the area and I am dumbfounded that they Forestry department is even considering the devastating impact on this important piece of our country's heritage. . . .

Protecting America's valuable waterways is more important now than ever before, due to climate chaos and the droughts that it exacerbates.

I strongly urge that this nation needs to preserve and protect those areas still remaining of clean and crystal clear water, with excellent multi-day wilderness paddling adventures, and especially to protect the endangered fish like Chinook Salmon, Steelhead, and Bull Trout, for which the area is listed as critical habitat. Other species of wildlife also depend on these fish to survive, and to keep this area in a true balance of Nature. The river's headwaters, where the mine is proposed, must remain protected and preserved, as all the flora and fauna within! As a lifetime Idaho resident, I greatly value the rapidly growing outdoor recreation economy here.

I feel I am uniquely qualified to comment on this matter as I make a living working on river restoration projects all across the Pacific Northwest. I've seen firsthand the effects of mining and poor river management. I urge the Forest Service to refrain from allowing any detrimental actions to be allowed in this watershed.

Please consider the value of this river in an undamaged form, and the great potential for damage to it with this major mine at its head.

So let's not go backward and cause destruction with mining let's go forward and save the South Fork of the Salmon River!

Please protect our nation's wilderness and waters.

The rivers of the South Fork Salmon watershed are part of the Salmon fish habitat that we have worked hard to restore as well as water for outdoor recreation. .

The rivers of the South Fork Salmon watershed contain world class whitewater that myself and paddlers from across the country and the world travel to Idaho to visit. In addition to the active destruction of this watershed is the continued presence of 100 million tons of contaminated mining materials behind a 450-foot high dam with the additional risks of tailings dam failure, acid mine drainage, and cyanide spills, which are all not accounted for in the DEIS. Durango and Silverton, Colorado and the other communities downstream of such left overs from mining can attest to the long standing problems with not just the initial mining but the consequences long after mining operations have closed down. Communities, citizens, and ecosystems pay the economic and environmental costs of allowing mining to occur on our public lands. This project is not economically viable and Alternative 5 should be the chosen action on this project.

I cannot overstate the value of the rivers and whitewater resources of Idaho. I beg you please to consider the impact to our valued public property and the endangered animals and natural resources that will undoubtedly be ruined by this greedy proposed endeavor.

It is incredibly important to me that the Forest Service protect the outstanding water quality of this major tributary to the Wild and Scenic Salmon River.

My father has ties to the Nez Pearce tribe, and would never support any project like this because of how highly he values and respects the Nez Pearce people. He is 86 and unable anymore to participate in this kind of letter writing campaign, so I am speaking for him. I have seen these kayakers many times on my trips to the region, and have fished the waters with my father. .

I am a Idaho native and travel back to my beautiful state to enjoy the outdoors supporting hunting, camping, hiking, and whitewater. Please consider protecting the South Fork Salmon River from the impacts of mining. As a

Environmental Scientist who has managed oil & gas as well as mines the impacts can be long reaching. I promote progress but do not believe compromising a watershed is a acceptable impact.

Really? Don't go ahead with this mine. Period.

Enough. Once again we are being asked to let a few people get rich and then clean up the mess. The west is lettered with toxic mine sites where a few people extracted minerals or metals and then left the mess to the taxpayers by declaring corporate bankruptcy. The posted bonds are never adequate for cleanup. In this case the damage will not be isolated to the mine site, but has the potential to pollute an entire recreation venue, one of the last truly pristine places in the west and a driver of the local economy. ., .

I am writing to represent the voice for all the creatures who call the south fork watershed home. As a citizen of the United States, I am stakeholder who utilizes these public lands in their current undiminished state, . More importantly it is our responsibility as stakeholders to value a healthy environment over a hefty pocketbook. We know Cree tribe expressed it best, " 'When the last tree is cut down, the last fish eaten and the last stream poisoned, you will realize that you cannot eat money.' " .

One of the most treasured resource in Idaho is the wilderness areas that many states in the U.S. and the world no longer have because they failed to protect it. Please consider the following as we have to opportunity for Idaho to continue to be leaders in wilderness management. ., .

Among the many benefits the river offers, the South Fork Salmon watershed contain world class whitewater that paddlers from across the country and the world travel to Idaho to visit.

If this mine project is approved the watershed will never be the same and the diversity of the waterway will likely never recover from the affects of the mining project.

I am a raft guide for Northwest Rafting Company on the Middle Fork Salmon and recreational boater on the Main Salmon River in Idaho. I care deeply about this area and its longevity, which means that I am against this Gold project. Shortsighted and consequential, it neglects to factor in the millions of visitors that come for clean water (as well as boost the economy in and around the Forest) and the fish that already work so hard to spawn (maybe concentrate the efforts and jobs around finding solutions for farmers and taking the Snake dams down).

Alternative 5 is No Action, which in itself is an action that understands this ecosystem is better as we found it. We as boaters practice Leave no Trace Principles, you should do the same.

"I have whitewater kayaked the South Fork of the Salmon river and appreciate it's unique qualities.

Alternative 5 is the only option that will preserve the unique qualities of the South Fork of the Salmon river."

I want Alternative 5, the No Action Alternative outlined in the Stibnite Gold Project's DEIS. I am a concerned citizen who has recreated in these public lands and who appreciates that their staggering beauty owes in large part to their lack of pollution. I'm also a human being whose health and well being depends on the remaining natural order of the world to remain as undisturbed as possible. It matters not that my family and I live on the other side of the country. No impacts are exclusively local any more given the existing toll humans have already taken on the earth's meta-ecosystem. These effects matter more than extracting metal from the ground.

As an outdoor professional in the whitewater industry, I am outraged that such an undertaking with so much clearly negative impact would even be considered.

I am one of many paddlers from across the country - and the world - that travel to Idaho to enjoy the amazing whitewater and beautiful forests. This project will not just affect the land it sits on. The effects during mining and the potential for leaks after the mining is complete affects a huge watershed and hundreds of miles of downstream water. I live in Colorado and the Gold Mine spill is fresh on our minds here. .

Mining companies have a long history of not returning the environment where they mine back to the pre-mining condition. In fact, they often leave the land and water in much worse conditions for years to come. Please do not allow this mine to move forward, protect the land, water and wildlife for the current and future generations.

The rivers of the South Fork Salmon watershed contain world class whitewater that paddlers such as myself, and from across the country and the world travel to Idaho to visit. .

Please consider this as priority for future generations!

This area of the country should be left for recreationalists as too few places remain as pristine as this area.

Such limited resources are a treasure and we the people must protect such beautiful places. .

As an individual who fishes and values the rivers and spectacular whitewater resources of Idaho,

"The proposed mine on the East Fork of the South Fork of the Salmon is a short term, narrow minded, disaster

waiting to happen if it is allowed to proceed. This mine will not only hurt the entire ecological system but also degrade the wilderness of everything downstream of the mine. With an endangered Chinook Salmon and many other fishes that are native to the Salmon river and its tributaries, it is hard to see why this proposed mine could have any positive impact for anyone besides the few greedy people who will profit at Midas Gold. This will also directly affect the thousands of people who recreate in these rivers and enjoy the wild lands that were carved and supported by the Salmon river watershed. This is a direct attack on American public land and the Forest Service should critically think about the long term effects that would come from building a mine. The idea that diverting the river around this project will somehow help maintain flow, temperature, and the sediment that every species downstream needs is preposterous and shows how little biological impact was actually taken into account when assessing this project. As we have seen all over the country (and the world) messing with rivers has long term effects that in many cases are irreversible. Dams, mines, and diversions put all riparian and aquatic species at risk and could send already endangered species into an extinction vortex. The idea that this river will repair itself after the mine is stripped of its gold is insidious.

The new roads, electrical systems, spillage from diesel and gold-extracting chemicals, and impact of having an infrastructure heavy project will have negative impacts on the entire area for centuries to come. Rivers can and will repair themselves but it will take much longer than any human could predict or are willing to admit. This is unacceptable for a government agency who is supposed to be 'Caring for the land and serving people.' The Salmon watershed is one of the few pristine watersheds that is left in the country. People from all over the world make the trek to this amazing resource every year to get a glimpse at the fishing, whitewater, hiking, and wildlife that the river provides. By building a mine at the headwaters of this resource, you would not only take this away from people who have enjoyed this for decades but eliminate the chance that many people or future generations would be able to see this amazing place. As a proud American I am astonished that we would allow a money hungry private company to come in and destroy one of the most amazing resources we have to offer for our citizens and people from all over the world. As Americans we should strive to be the country that sets the tone for protecting our wild lands for future generations by looking at long term effects. Thank you for your taking the time to read this and think about the devastation that would come from this mine."

"These are my reasons, please take time to read and consider them: This project puts at risk multiple necessary resources for what is undeniably a human want, not a need. Clean, trustworthy water is invaluable. Have we not learned from places like Flint, MI? Do we really want to put people at risk of cyanide poisoning in an area of frequent human habitation and recreation? This project acknowledges in its DEIS that water quantity and quality will be affected. This is not acceptable. Furthermore, the state of Idaho has spent billions of dollars trying to support the recovery of numerous endangered salmon populations. This project will negatively affect those goals and will quite literally undermine the progress made in salmon recovery. Do not do this, please. To build a mine in an area recognized as critical habitat for these endangered wildlife populations is irresponsible, and I absolutely oppose this. This land is public land. Thank you for holding a comments period, and please take the time to consider how the public, the people this country and this land are for, actually feel about this project. My opinion is this: such a mine is not a good investment, period. I am a single citizen. I am not part of any special interest group. I saw an email about this and felt strongly enough to take time out of my day and write these paragraphs expressing my strong opinions on this subject. I value rivers and whitewater. Through time spent on our nation's rivers I have made invaluable memories with my family that bonded us together and strengthened our relationships and love for one another. Our public lands give us something exceptional as Americans. There is a reason our national parks are filled with foreigners every summer. Part of what makes us American is the freedom of access we have, and access to wilderness and pristine waters are among those freedoms. Do not take away the freedom and wonder this unique area offers. I am a whitewater and outdoor enthusiast. I know the value of places like the South Fork Salmon watershed, The South Fork Salmon River is finally healing from the scars of past mining activity, and the impacts of expanded"

We must preserve our lands and wild places for future generations to discover and enjoy. We can not risk the possibility of losing this wild sanctuary to more mining.

"I love rivers. I love wildlife. I love outdoor recreation. I want to protect the environment and species that live in the areas that bring me over whelming joy. The South Fork of the salmon is a Major tributary to The Main Salmon, a WILD AND SCENIC RIVER. So shouldn't we protect the water that feeds an already protected river? It is the

habitat for endangered species of fish such as, Chinook salmon and Steel head.

These fish have been fighting for their habitat for years with so many projects trying to harm their habitat. If they could speak they would be exhausted at the amount of times they have to stand up for themselves so that they didn't have to swim in chemicals anymore. This river is not just home to endangered species of fish, but outstanding outdoor recreation that every American and citizen of the world should be able to come and enjoy. Thousands of people come to enjoy the National Parks of Idaho every year. For the paddler, the whitewater is exceptional from a road side day trip to an over night to the head waters of The Main Salmon. World class fishing for our anglers of the world. And some beautiful camping with hot springs hidden about. It's an outdoor paradise. It's our duty to protect the environment, we've done such a poor job of it for years. Now is the time to really put our foot down and say 'you know what we don't need more things, we need more flowers, fish and running rivers. We need more areas for bears to eat berries, deer to bed down and eagles to soar.' It's time for the environment to beat big business. She deserves more than any human, because she is the world and was here long before us and will be here long after us. We should start feeding her again instead of starving her of beauty. I think it would be a great thing of The Forest Service to protect this area. It has already been hurt by mining once before. Let's keep the waters clean and free for the generations to come."

It is crucial that we choose to protect the waters and the environment of Idaho as well as all watersheds.

Alternative 5 is the only real option as we should not sell out to ruthless extraction companies who are interested in short term profits at the expense of the local environment and everyone downstream. ., .

The adverse effects on wildlife outweigh the need for this project.

As an individual who values the rivers of our country, . I am writing as a concerned citizen and stakeholder who lives on this planet and in this country and enjoys the wonderful public lands we have kept in their current undiminished state. Public lands belong to the public of the United States and are entrusted to the management the Forest Service for protecting the public interest. The rivers of the South Fork Salmon watershed are cherished public resources that should be protected for current and future generations and should definitely not be allowed to be damaged by the Stibnite Gold Project. I can't imagine why anyone would even consider allowing this watershed to be damaged. . Moving forward with this project would negatively impact this amazing public resource for whitewater paddling, camping, and fishing and would negatively impact all of the people of Idaho who rely on the hundreds of thousands of visitors each year to our National Forests. The South Fork Salmon River is finally healing from the scars of past mining activity, and the impacts of expanded mining activity represent a completely unacceptable risk to this watershed. Please protect this amazing watershed.

It is appealing that such a large project is being considered without a full and thorough environmental impact study. So much of what could potentially pollute the waters is omitted in the draft statement. Name for me open pit gold mine ever to have had no negative impact on nearby waterways. One does not exist. The controls and protections currently required are inadequate to protect this habitat. ., .

As people who value wild, free-flowing, pure rivers and the spectacular whitewater resources of Idaho, my family and I (four voting and tax-paying adults). We are writing this letter as concerned citizens who live in a neighboring state and who love to come to Idaho for campong, bicycling, hiking and white water activities for vacations. We are stakeholders who utilizes Idaho's public lands, and we fully appreciate these current undiminished natural resources (so rare in the West today). These are PUBLIC lands for which the Forest Service is directed to manage for multiple uses in the public's interest. We are well aware and value the rivers of the South Fork Salmon watershed, as they contain world class whitewater that paddlers (as we are) and others from across the country and world travel to Idaho to experience. They are an existing shared resource that will outlast any mining or other development project. We see the DEIS clearly states that all of the alternatives presented, apart from Alternative 5, would adversely affect federally listed endangered fish species, their habitats, and the watershed's water quality and quantity. It is incredibly important to us personally that the Forest Service protect the outstanding water quality of this major tributary to the Wild and Scenic Salmon River. We value this river system throughout the Pacific Northwest as a vitally important one for native and endangered fish, especially the salmonids. Our PNW states of Washington and Oregon and the federal government have spent billions to try to save the dwindling salmon populations, and it is not yet too late to save them from extinction. But it is close, and this mining project would be another nail in the coffin. We know the value of outdoor recreation in this region and the current economic vitality of the local communities, since we have participated in contributing to them! We also

know that moving forward with this mining project would adversely impact not only our and our friends personal enjoyment of this public resource through whitewater paddling, camping, fishing, hiking and bicycling, but it would also negatively impact all Idahoans who rely on income, directly or indirectly, from hundreds of thousands of annual visitors to Idaho's National Forests. We know that the South Fork Salmon River is finally healing from scars of past mining activity and that the impacts of expanded mining activity represent unacceptable risk to this incredibly valuable watershed. Thank you for honoring this alternative in the DEIS and for your sincere consideration of these comments from the four of us: Dan and Lys Burden and Mike and Dan Brant, residents of Port Townsend, Washington.

"The South Fork Salmon watershed rivers contain world-class whitewater that paddlers from across the country and the world travel to Idaho to visit. As an individual who values these rivers and spectacular whitewater resources of Idaho, and as a concerned citizen and stakeholder who utilizes these public lands in their current undiminished state, I am also an owner. One of the directives of The Forest Service is to manage these open spaces in the public interest. The DEIS clearly states that all of the alternatives presented, apart from Alternative 5, would adversely affect federally listed endangered fish species, their habitat, and the watershed's water quality and quantity. This river system is vitally essential for native and endangered fish, outdoor recreation, and the local communities' economic vitality. Personally, the Forest Service must protect the outstanding water quality of this significant tributary to the Wild and Scenic Salmon River.

Moving forward with this project would not only adversely impact my utilization and enjoyment of this public resource, but it would also negatively impact all of the people of Idaho who rely on the hundreds of thousands of visitors each year to our National Forests. The South Fork Salmon River is finally healing from the scars of past mining activity, and the impacts of expanded mining activity represent an unacceptable risk to this watershed."

Our public lands should Never be For Sale to the highest bidder to destroy and pollute!!!!

Moving forward with this project would not only adversely impact my personal enjoyment of this public resource through fishing, but it would negatively impact all of the people of Idaho who rely on the hundreds of thousands of visitors each year to the National Forests.

Clean, clear water is an invaluable resource that too many take for granted. Idaho is one of the few places I have been that has beautiful, clear, flowing rivers. The South Fork of the Salmon is a unique river that should be protected from pollution and mining activity. Please do not allow the Stibnite Gold Mine Project to ruin a natural resource that can not be replaced. ., .

As an individual who values our country's amazing wild spaces, and especially the rivers and lakes that are the lifeblood of the land, I am extremely concerned with the potentially catastrophic environmental consequences the Stibnite Gold Project will have on this amazing area of Idaho. The rivers and spectacular whitewater resources of Idaho are world class, and . I am not part of a "special interest group," I am a concerned citizen and stakeholder who utilizes these public lands in their current unblemished state, lands for which each of us is an owner of and for which the Forest Service is directed to manage in the public interest. The rivers of the South Fork Salmon watershed contain not only world class whitewater that paddlers from around the world visit, but also support one of the few remaining wild steelhead runs in the greater Columbia basin. . Any economic benefit of mining is short-lived and not sustainable, as compared to recreation of current and future generations, spending money in Idaho. We must do more, not less, to protect the integrity of our western rivers and the habitat that they support.

please consider that the (Canadian) mining company will pay no royalties for extracted gold and that most of the revenue will go to the company's management and owners--relatively little will go to the people actually doing the work. Considering the mine's known negative effects to fishing, hunting, camping, wildlife, recreation, and other amenity values (such as a unique and very large backcountry) I strongly oppose going forward with the mine.

I am, luckily, a river guide on the magic and spectacular waters of Idaho. ., .

I am writing to you as an individual that values the outdoors and as someone who spends a large portion of my income on outdoor recreation and travel. The unspoiled beauty of the South Fork Salmon area inspires and draws recreation enthusiasts like myself from all over the country. Not only do I hope we can preserve this beautiful area, but I also hope that community leaders will recognize the economic benefits to preserving unspoiled spaces. Further, the Forest Service is directed to manage these lands in the public interest. I ask you to truly consider whether mining in this space is in the "public" interest because, from my perspective, it appears that mining in this area is in the interest of only a few private, special interest parties, and not the public. I believe

the "public" would be best served if their land, drinking water, and critical natural spaces were saved from pollution and harm. . Please protect this space for us and for our children.

Just stop the mining, the mountain west need to transition away from extractive resource economies and protect what we have left for tourism and our own well being. What follows is a message from American Whitewater.

We all have an obligation to the environment.

There is no more beautiful and pristine section of that watershed than the South Fork of the Salmon River.

How about thinking of the long term environmental impacts of these decisions? And the long term impacts on human health? Aren't these things more important than the short term profits of a few individual human beings?

The South Fork of the Salmon River is a tributary to the Wild and Scenic Salmon River. As such, it needs to be protected so that mining on the South Fork isn't able to pollute the wild and scenic sections of the Salmon River.

I think that this mine should be rejected. The purpose of life should be the search for the good, the true, and the beautiful, said Plato; and the various branches of the Salmon come close to possessing those characteristics.

Some places need protection from the depredations of industry and the resulting damage that they end up doing. After all, if America stops being "America the Beautiful," what's the point of living here.

"The south fork and East fork south fork salmon are some of my favorite sections of river in the country. I am sure that I will never experience more than a handful of rivers on par with the south fork salmon in Idaho. Even though I live in Washington, I jump at any opportunity to make the trip. As a teacher, I am lucky to be able to take those opportunities when they are presented during my vacation. I sincerely hope to enjoy the beautiful waters of the south fork many times in the future.

They say that South Fork Salmon River is finally healing from the scars of past mining activity, and the impacts of expanded mining activity represents an unacceptable risk to this watershed. Please join us in concern for this magical place!"

We have a local orca pod who refuses to eat anything but salmon, and a change like this would deplete some of their food supply further, making it more difficult for them to survive. Furthermore, fresh drinkable water as a resource is becoming more and more scarce with climate change. Losing access to water from the river will have large negative impacts not just for humans but the entire ecosystem of flora and fauna who sustain themselves on the watershed. Please don't approve this. We need to be better land stewards instead of focusing purely on extractive tasks.

one of the most precious and valued aspects of my life in this great state is the preservation of our public lands. When considering human impact on our wilderness, we must acknowledge how far-reaching these impacts may be. This project doesn't just have potential to disrupt the local ecosystem, but could also affect other interconnected waterways, mine-driven road traffic, noise pollution, Native American heritage and culture and wildlife migration to neighboring habitats.

Every year I make the migration to the south salmon river and it's drainages to start off the spring flow. If this river gets tainted by the mining company my yearly pilgrimage will no longer take place and I'll lose a part of my soul.

Please protect these endangered fish species, their habitat, and the river's water quality and quantity. It is all of our responsibility to protect mother earth. We have disrupted our lands too much already and at a great cost!

These salmon play a vital role and are at great risk. So much is at risk if you allow mining in this area. Please do not allow greed into your hearts. Do the right thing for our lands and for those that value these majestic places. . ,

.

As an Idaho resident, outdoorsman, and outdoor industry executive whose business relies on healthy rivers in Idaho, . Outdoor recreation is one of the largest industries in Idaho and supports innumerable businesses and households. Please do not sacrifice the South Fork Salmon for a boom-and-bust mining project at the expense of the long-term health of the river and the economy it supports. .

As a Northwest kayaker this river is an irreplaceable source of recreation that mining activity would destroy. . it would negatively impact all of the people of Idaho who rely on the hundreds of thousands of visitors each year to our National Forests--plus Native Americans heritage & tribal practices.

I am a wholehearted supporter of Alternative 5, the No Action Alternative outlined in the Stibnite Gold Project's Draft Environmental Impact Statement. I am writing as a concerned citizen and stakeholder who utilizes and PROTECTS these public lands in their current undiminished state, NOT the interests of those who plan to destroy the land and river, just to make a profit from it. Keep public lands PUBLIC! Listen to the people who care

for, and OWN that land. Evan Cowan Public Land Owner Protector of pristine WILD places.

"ENOUGH OF PROFITS OVER THE ENVIRONMENT. MOTHER EARTH IS SENDING A MESSAGE RIGHT NOW, THE QUESTION IS ARE WE LISTENING???" The South Fork

Salmon River is finally healing from the scars of past mining activity, and the impacts of expanded mining activity represents an unacceptable risk to this watershed."

Please vote NO!

The proposed mining activity, and resulting environmental footprint and damage, are far too great of a cost to bear for the enrichment of so few. We have seen this story played out time and again and each time it is the recreation stakeholders, the American tax payer, and the environment that get stuck with long term damage of such projects. ., .

I have made numerous trips to the watershed and find this basin to be extremely unique in its scenery, wildlife habitats, and quality of whitewater. Few, if any, rivers across the globe compare in style and recreation opportunities to the South Fork of the Salmon. Any new mining projects conducted in this basin would undoubtedly cause a major downturn in river quality, wildlife habitats, and local tourist spending. ., .

The South Fork Salmon River is finally healing from the scars of past mining activity, and the impacts of expanded mining activity represents an unacceptable risk to this valuable resource. There are too many adverse impacts that will occur if this project goes forward. I hope to keep Idaho wild and scenic for the future generations to cherish. As a 4th generation Idahoan, I can safely say that we are better than this proposed action. Although mining has indeed checkered our past as a territory and then through statehood, we are above degrading our natural resources now. It is especially troublesome that this project is proposed and will be carried out by a foreign corporation. It would be a shame to lose something so valuable due to generation of corporate mining profits. and review of the stakeholder positions when considering this matter. -Best regards, SKH

Please keep prioritizing the preservation of this watershed!

I make a trip to Idaho every spring and summer to enjoy the rivers and beauty of the state. The south fork salmon is one of the staples in my friends and I's trips to Idaho. It is unique for its wilderness and whitewater. There is simply no other river that offers what the south salmon does. .

The rivers of the South Fork Salmon are critical for fish and wildlife and incredibly valuable to outdoor recreation.

.

This is about risk versus reward and it is time to stop viewing the risk to the environment as a temporary issue that is a necessary evil. It is not and we do not have natural resources to waste. That is evidenced every year but by this past summer in particular. We need to protect every natural resource because they cannot be recreated. . The rivers of the South Fork Salmon watershed contain world-class whitewater that paddlers from across the country and the world travel to Idaho to visit. . but it would also negatively impact all of the people of Idaho who rely on the hundreds of thousands of visitors each year to our National Forests. The South Fork Salmon River is finally healing from the scars of past mining activity, and the impacts of expanded mining activity represent an unacceptable risk to this watershed.

We can live without another gold mine. We cannot live without water."

I am writing as a concerned citizen and geological engineering graduate student who utilizes these public lands in their current untrampled state. These lands are owned by the public and the Forest Service is directed to manage them in the public interest, not in the interest of the government or corporations. I think it's important to ask 'why do we want a large-scale mining project in the middle of pristine woodland at the headwaters of an important river?' If the answer is 'money,' please strongly reconsider. The health of the environment impacts the health of people and wildlife, and a mine could severely change the health of that watershed. , as well. It is incredibly important to me personally as an engineer, recreator, climate activist, and citizen that the Forest Service protect the outstanding water quality of this major tributary to the Wild and Scenic Salmon River, . Not to mention the possibly devastating downstream effects on other rivers, lands, wildlife, and communities. Everything is connected and the environmental impact does not stop at the area surrounding the mine. Moving forward with this project would not only adversely impact my personal enjoyment of this public resource through camping and paddling, but it would negatively impact all of the people of Idaho who rely on the hundreds of thousands of visitors each year to our National Forests. The South Fork Salmon River is finally healing from the scars of past

mining activity, and the impacts of expanded mining activity represents an unacceptable risk to this watershed. The South Fork is a spectacular resource that should not be put any threat by a mining interest.

My family lives and recreates in Idaho and I have spent a lot of time there in the beautiful wild of that state. Outdoor recreation is an economic viable option for the area, not continued decimation of nature.

The quality of Idaho's public lands are the main reason my family lives here. As stewards of our public lands, I'm hoping the Forest Service will do everything possible to stop this harmful project and protect Idaho's amazing rivers and streams. Filling the pockets of a few by damaging our public lands and polluting the rivers that we all love and use, seems so backward and unnecessary. .

PLEASE! Do not let the beautiful natural space be desecrated by mining activity! This year was my first experience on the Salmon, and I fell deeply in love- this river and surrounding area deserve our utmost reverence, care and respect. We cannot allow the exploitation of this land. ., .

The rivers of the South Fork Salmon watershed contain world class whitewater that paddlers from across the U.S. and the world travel to Idaho to visit. .

"When the fuck are y'all going to start listening to science over your damned pocketbooks? When all the fish die off? When we die off? Fuck your gold. Take care of this earth and she will take care of you in return.

This summer during the COVID crisis, my family had the opportunity to paddle the Main Salmon. We paddled with a group from Utah -- practicing social distancing -- easy in kayaks. It was the trip of a lifetime - a chance to experience wild scenic remote nature. We couldn't stop praising the foresight of the people who preserved this land for us all. We were happy to comply with the reasonable restrictions of camp fires (fire pans), groovers (sanitary functions). We were changed by spending time with people so very different to us in a landscape like nothing we had ever seen. My family and friends are making plans for another Salmon trip next year and some of the better boaters among us are planning for the Middle Fork and the South Fork Salmon. That is why I am writing to comment on the Stibnite Gold Project. I should add that I live in central PA and grew up in Northeast PA. I know about the legacy of mining -- we paddle rivers damaged by acid mine drainage where there are no fish. We marvel at the quantities of money and effort it would take to remediate these rivers.

We must continue the great work to protect our most vital yet ever dwindling resources of these natural areas. The progress in the name of big business and mining is not at all in our long term best interest or that of future Americans. One of our greatest legacies is protecting these spaces that can never be recreated for generations to come. ., .

Born and raised in the beautiful Pacific Northwest, I was fortunate to grow up in a family that was passionate about outdoor recreation, conservation, and respecting mother nature.

"This summer, for the first time, my husband and I were able to take our daughters on both the Teton River and the Snake.

They are nearly 2 and 4 years old and we are so excited to be able to share our love of rivers with them as they grow. As part of a family that values the rivers and spectacular whitewater resources of Idaho, . The rivers of the South Fork Salmon watershed contain world-class whitewater that paddlers from across the country and the world travel to Idaho to visit.

but it would also negatively impact all of the people of Idaho who rely on the hundreds of thousands of visitors each year to our National Forests. "

I love visiting Idaho for clean outdoor activities to rejuvenate my soul. We must keep our public lands and water ways public and in the most natural way possible. We should not use them for extraction activities of any kind. ., . and that I would like the chance to visit one day as well.

Two years ago my family spent six spectacular days bonding and growing on the Main Salmon River. Had the pandemic not hit we would have been back out on the Middle Fork this year. We know the spectacular whitewater resources of Idaho personally and highly value the opportunity to visit these public resources as they are, untouched by mining land and water use changes. . The rivers of the South Fork Salmon watershed contain world class whitewater that we have visited and enjoyed and that others from across the country and the world travel to Idaho deserve to visit and enjoy too.

I am writing this as someone who annually rafts the Salmon and would hate to no longer be able to pass along

the experience to my future generations. I am writing as a concerned citizen and stakeholder who utilizes these public lands in their current undiminished state,, .

The outdoor recreation sector brings in \$887 BILLION DOLLARS to our GDP every year. That industry needs rivers and public lands left wild as they are. Wild as they are for generations to come and it will continue to bring in money into our economy for generations and generations. , , .

"Please keep our waters free, pure, and protected by the federal government.

PROTECTED!!"

This resource is of high value as it sits for our country. It is not in the best interests of the United States to permit this mine.

The South Fork Salmon River, in particular, is a dream destination for me and other paddlers across the world, and is famed not just for world class whitewater, but for scenery and solitude unmatched in this country. Across this country, we have seen the environmental effects of mining, even when everything goes right. We know, thanks to the DEIS, that Alternative 5 is the only option that does not adversely affect federally listed endangered fish species, their habitat, and the watershed's water quality and quantity. Beyond the scope of the effects listed in the DEIS, we know the potential impacts of tailings dam failures, acid mine draining, and cyanide spills because we have seen these things happen before. The consequences are both devastating and long lasting. There is no debate about the issue - Stibnite Gold Project will permanently scar the South Fork Salmon River and the surrounding lands. The gold will eventually dry up, and while a few mining executives will be richer, the rest of the public that values this unique river and land will be left poorer for generations to come.

SAVE THE RIVER AND THE FISH

It takes more than a bit of time and effort to make it from my home in Georgia to the South Fork, but its majestic beauty is reason enough. It is important to me personally that the Forest Service protect the outstanding water quality of this major tributary to the Wild and Scenic Salmon River, . It is important to succeeding generations that this natural resource be preserved in its pristine state. Moving forward with this project would not only adversely impact my enjoyment of this public resource through whitewater paddling, camping and fishing, it would negatively impact all of the people of Idaho who rely on the hundreds of thousands of visitors each year to their National Forests.

Lucky we are to have this beautiful planet and free flowing rivers. Please help protect our rivers. This planet is all we've got.

I strongly believe that we must protect the natural resources of the state. In the long run, that is what makes Idaho unique and what give us value and also economic growth. It is short sighted to compromise natural resources for a limited economic advantage. I have paddled the South Fork Salmon several times and also gone there fly fishing. It, along with the entire salmon river system, is absolutely unique in the world. I want this to be preserved for my kids and grandkids.

I personally have had the absolute pleasure of paddling from the East Fork South Fork from Yellow Pine down the South Fork Salmon to the take out on the Main Salmon at Vinegar Creek. This is one of Idaho's absolute must preserve and protect areas for so many reasons more valuable than gold. It is so special and bringing back mining to this area will hurt the environment and the wildlife for generations to come. We don't have as many wild and remote places as this left in the world let alone the United States. Idaho should be proud to have such a place. Let's all do what we can to prevent the Stibnite Mine and roads and additional infrastructure from coming to the East Fork South Fork and South Fork Salmon River drainages. , , .

I am writing today to support the No Action Alternative for the South Fork Salmon River. There is no way for a gold mining project to responsibly mitigate all of their impact on the environment. Below, I cite some impactful points that sums up my viewpoint well.

The focus should be to preserve and protect instead of long term unnecessary destruction!

The rivers of the South Fork Salmon watershed contain areas of undiminished beauty that deserves to be protected.

I have rafted and explored the Salmon and all its forks. Such pristine beauty is rare in America, rarer in the world. Climate change is real, these few rare places with clean water and free wildlife must be protected for future generation and for the long term health of the planet. Trading your soul for gold is a Devil's bargain. A few get rich, we all pay them in lost rivers and forests and the wildlife they support.

Protect these waters so my kids and grandkids can raft and fish this wild and pristine river! . , .

Let's respect the fish, Native Americans and all the people who rely on this area for spiritual nourishment.

I value the rivers and natural resources of Idaho. . These rivers make me and others who live in Idaho proud. We have a sense of duty to protect our wildlife, lands, and rivers. We all hope to enjoy them for many years with our family and friends. I hope one day to share these rivers with my children.

Our watersheds and the wildlife within are already operating at a diminished state. To further subject them to degradation are unacceptable.

The rivers of the South Fork Salmon watershed contain world class whitewater that paddlers , including myself, from across the country and the world travel to Idaho to visit. Moving forward with this project would not only adversely impact my personal enjoyment of this public resource through whitewater paddling, Do the right thing protect this amazing area.

This is to express my opposition to the mining permit being decided upon regarding the South Fork of the Salmon. Once one of the most prolific breeding grounds of pacific salmon, past misuse has decimated this amazing river. Its now clawing its way back, please allow it to continue to heal by taking no action on this permit. As an individual who values the rivers and spectacular natural resources of Idaho, . , .

It is becoming increasingly important that we do all we can to protect the world's natural habitats, ecosystems, and resources. The South Fork Salmon Watershed area holds much more value than just that of it's minerals that can be extracted. To extract gold from this area would draw upon only the smallest portion of value offered by the area, while simultaneously degrading all other valuable resources in the area. . lands for which the Forest Service is directed to manage in the public interest. The rivers of the South Fork Salmon watershed contain world class whitewater that people from across the country and the world travel to Idaho to visit. As one of those people who holds these rivers dear, I urge you to protect the pristine landscapes and rivers of the South Fork Salmon Watershed. .

Please register my support for alternative 5, no action on the Stibnite Gold project. I am an individual who has travelled from Georgia to Idaho to enjoy these pristine wild places. Any commercial development for gold extraction will certainly degrade these environs. As US citizen I am an owner of this resource and I do not want it to be exploited for commercial gain.

. **To quote an old, well-loved song, what the world needs now is LOVE, sweet love. That's the only thing that there's just too little of! And I love the pristine, all-natural, wilderness of the South Fork of the Salmon. Anyone deciding on this treacherous Impact Statement should be required to go on a whitewater river trip to experience the majesty and grandeur and outstanding POWER of the Salmon. More precious than gold!** .

Ok, so you know ALL of the reasons why this is a bad idea to do anything to mess with the World Class and important Salmon River so I am not going to bother trying to change and improve this message. Yes, many of us value this river and as a public lands owner, I write this representing my own interests. These personal interests, of course, cross over with the overall interests. Fishing, hunting, rafting and just being in the Salmon are things I enjoy. On top of this, this important watershed is vital to communities in Idaho and the United States. Please take into consideration what the owners of this amazing public land are trying to preserve. Please read very carefully EVERY word of this professional and beautifully crafted letter. Thank you for your time. of your long term impact on this wild and necessary place. In the bible, it says, 'Live by the Golden Rule.' Follow this and your life will improve drastically, I can promise you. Thank you with deep appreciation.

It has taken far too long for this earth to develop, evolve and grow all the species of plant and animal that live in this watershed, for us to squander it. We as humans and Americans cannot let our momentary ambitions, greed or impatience allow us to squander this resource. I need this resource to remain healthy and natural so that my daughter and son and their children can one day roam those grounds and float on the South Fork as a means to happiness. We need this land to retain it's intrinsic and immense value that can only be used or redeemed as a whole in an untouched state. It's value and worth is far greater than that of any on our even handful of precious metals and minerals that the market now desires. As a citizen and taxpayer of the United States, I expect the First Service to protect and preserve my public lands.

Some things are better left to nature! I value the outdoor spaces necessary for my mental survival, and any proposal that could possibly diminish or deface these areas must be rejected! Our wild spaces are what make the United States of America such a unique and beautiful country. It is our duty to protect that against the private

interests of a few rich mining executives.

PLEASE TAKE CAREFUL CONSIDERATION INTO ALLOWING A GOLD MINE TO DESTROY ONE OF OUR MOST PRISTINE RIVER ECOSYSTEMS AND MOST INCREDIBLE STRETCH OF RIVER FOR RECREATION!

"It would be a foolish act beyond comparison to prioritize the extraction of material over the rehabilitation of rivers. Please look at India for a nightmare vision of America if industries are allowed to continue extracting and polluting waterways.

Anybody who supports the extraction of resources from this river will be subject to crimes related to habitat and wildlife destruction. What remains of our wild land is the most pristine wild lands area in the lower United States. Gold is a past-time material with a horrendous history. Any industry and its leaders with gold on their hands is subject to being labeled a conqueror, a destroyer, a slave-master, and an environmental rapist; and in years to come, anyone who has allowed these devilish industrialists to destroy more habitat will be subject to the full extent of the law, just like the industry leaders who bullied you into letting them begin their destruction will be held accountable and imprisoned for habitat destruction, mass murder, genocide, and most likely financial crimes, like embezzlement and fraud, as well as crimes of negligence and breaking work environmental treaties. You know the decision is hard, but the right one [mdash] shut the Stibnite Gold Project down and bury it for good in a tomb made out of anything but its stolen gold."

The watershed contains many significant pristine waters and landscapes vulnerable to severe negative impacts from this type of mining activity. The history of these types of cyanide leech facilities is full of grave negative impacts to our natural resources and also full of examples where the mining operators are never held accountable for the loss of wildlife habitat, harmful pollution, and other long term and permanent degradation of public land. the impacts to this river will affect waters all across Idaho if this major tributary to the Wild and Scenic Salmon River is compromised by such outdated mining methods. This river system is vitally important for native and endangered fish, outdoor recreation, and the economic vitality of the local communities that surround it. Moving forward with this project would not only adversely impact my personal use of this area, but would negatively impact all of the people of Idaho who rely on the hundreds of thousands of visitors each year to our National Forests. The external costs of this project, when fully accounted for, are far higher than the public benefit that can come from allowing mining here. It is for good reason that the adjacent State of Montana has banned these obsolete mining methods. We can do a much better job of mining this area with an honest appraisal of external costs and commitment to best available mining practices.

As an individual who travels to the area to spend my tourism dollars amogn the businesses supported by those resources. The comment period should be extended to further allow the public time to speak up about their thoughts on the use of their lands.

This is an amazing, wild place that cannot be destroyed. It is one of the most powerful places I have been and is worth more than any mining project can produce. Please protect this place from a devastating mining project that has been proven to create damage well beyond what is acceptable.

Please do not destroy the river that ignited my passion for whitewater and the habitat that nurtures our volatile trout populations. ., .

"You can't have a mine near a river without damaging the river. It never happens as the business of mining is too complex.

You all know this. Save a few places for our kids. Don't do this mine. Consider your legacy in making this decision. One more mine so that a company can make money for twenty or thirty years? You'd permit this in exchange for allowing a river to flow clean and wild for hundreds or thousands of years? You'd trade the revenue value of the of the mine under the 1872 mining act against the long term value of tourism and the mental health of our people? Do the right thing. Do the patriotic thing. Say no to this mine. Let's give our kids a chance to live with some protected beauty and where local economies can generate a sustainable revenue stream. We can have it all-- business and nature. Revenue and a clean river. But not with this mine. Please say no to it. As someone before me said: ""

I have yet to have the opportunity to visit this and the surrounding rivers. However it is on my bucket list, and when I make it happen I would sure like it to be in at least as good of shape as it is today. I have had many friends go on this river and rave about how wonderful and beautiful it is. What a shame it would be if I were to be able to get there only a few years later and my experience and later story around the campfire be much more

bleak than those that were there before me. As an individual who values the rivers and spectacular whitewater resources of this country, ., .

The south fork of the salmon is valuable river for recreation. As someone who enjoys rafting I can't imagine a time when the south fork is no longer an option due to mining developmen.

"I have been a citizen of Valley County in the past and often consider returning when I complete my current trajectory of higher education. Above all, the asset that lures me back to that part of the world is the river. I first visited the South Fork of the Salmon as a young adult in 2005. I had been a river guide on other stretches throughout Idaho and was thrilled to experience a river with engaging whitewater, but more importantly the appearance of a trout fishery to rival the famed Middle Fork. So I pulled out my fly rod. And nothing. I later learned of historical events

that have recently devastated the fishery and have followed work being done to restore salmon and steelhead runs as well as robust cutthroat populations. I have also seen the region surge in popularity within the whitewater community over the last 15 years as more and more paddlers and rafter make the pilgrimage to Yellowstone. It's a trip I still try to make happen every year, regardless of how far away I live. I have paddled hundreds of rivers all over the United States and the world. I have often referred to the SFS as the single greatest whitewater resource in our country. It is not just a place for elite athletes, but a sacred gem for river users of all skill and interest levels and one of fewer and fewer places on our planet where we can find a brief retreat from the connectivity of modern life."

The Fact that these asshats want to ruin our environment for profit and pennies on the dollar will benefit only temporarily. How many communities along the Salmon will be decimated and rendered obsolete when there is no more Salmon/ Sttelhead run? Entire communities will be brought under by greed and influence (All Fucking temporary remember!) and the already struggling central Idaho communities will have no chance at survival! All at a time in our country when we need to become MORE in touch with community than ever. Shame on whomever pushes this through bc its all about money and influence. Go Fuck Yourself if you're for the physical raping and pillaging of OUR PUBLIC LANDS FOR PROFIT! THIS IS AN ABSOLUTE NO GO FROM THIS TAXPAYER!! IF THIS PASSES YOU ALL WILL BE RESPONSIBLE FOR THE DETRIMENT BROUGHT BY YOUR GREED!!!

I am a passionate whitewater boater who travels to Idaho at least once a summer to paddle the Salmon river and its tributaries. I spend significant money in the local communities on food, gas, gear and more. I use local outfitters to shuttle vehicles.

I would hate to see the south fork damaged by mining.

I am a concerned citizen and lover of nature and want our endangered species protected. We must stand up to money greedy cooperations and stand for the value of ecologic diversity and wild lands. It is incredibly important that the Forest Service protect the outstanding water quality of this major tributary to the Wild and Scenic Salmon River

The rivers of the South Fork Salmon watershed offer fantastic fishing and camping opportunities that I would like to see preserved for myself and my kids and grandkids. .

I am writing this letter out of concern for the South Fork of the Salmon. I am an avid rafter and I care deeply about the preservation of our rivers. I spent a lot of time rafting in Idaho this summer, and it would be difficult for me to express in words how therapeutic the Salmon was for me given the taxing year we've all had. ., .

I have finally started to really explore the state's rivers as a developing whitewater kayaker. Like many, I aspire to enjoy stretches of the Salmon when my skill and the circumstances are ready. I now worry I waited too long and will never enjoy these scenic, rewarding rivers if a gold mine is installed upstream. Whitewater adventure sports are finally blooming and growing from a fledgeling concept to a beloved activity. Please protect and maintain the natural lands and these gorgeous rivers that allowed our sport to thrive and grow through word of mouth, stunning photography, and hundreds of action videos that inspire future thrill seekers to come to Idaho for a once-in-a- lifetime experience.

Personally I have not had the opportunity to experience the S. Fork Salmon but have spent many nights dreaming of it and gazing at guidebooks planning a future visit. As someone from the South East, I've seen many of our natural places and rivers somewhat destroyed and almost always showing signs of human presence. Idaho and the west in general represents a wild timelessness that can't be found here in Georgia. I understand

the need for strong economies for the people of Idaho but I think we need to take into deep consideration the places that we sacrifice because there are so few left with the raw, natural allure that the South Fork Salmon is known for.

I am just a regular citizen of Idaho and I love hiking and boating in our wonderful forests and on our amazing rivers. I love that we have abundant wildlife including fish and birds that abound in and around our rivers. I know Idaho rivers are a huge draw for rafters and kayakers and nature lovers from around the world. We need these and other tourists who visit our beautiful public lands. This [Alternative 5] is the best plan for managing these lands. The South Fork Salmon Watershed should be protected. It is most important to protect the endangered fish species and their habitat. We must focus on preserving the watershed quality. All the other alternatives, except alternative 5 would cause harm to these important resources. I find great enjoyment of this public resource through whitewater paddling, camping and fishing. I live in Boise but I know many of my fellow citizens who live in the small mountain towns depend on tourism and the hundreds of thousands of visitors each year to our National Forests for their livelihood. The South Fork Salmon River is worth keeping clean and pristine. We do not need a gold mine at or near its headwaters. Do not risk contaminating this important watershed.

"I spent over a decade of my life guiding on central Idaho rivers, and we even named our oldest child 'Frank Church.' The Salmon River is more precious than gold to me, my family, and many other Idahoans! My late husband worked at both the South Fork Ranch and Shepp Ranch on the Salmon River for several years - that is where we met. He was lucky enough to spend many Fall seasons exploring the Frank Church and Gospel Hump wildernesses by river and by mule train.

Together, exploring and recreating in this precious area we shared some of the happiest memories of our lives. My family deeply values the rivers and spectacular whitewater resources of Idaho."

Our rivers are a lifeline for wildlife, tourism, and fishing just to name a few. We can't afford to disrupt the delicate balance we have worked so hard to protect. . .

"I moved here, in part, due to the State's spectacular rivers and whitewater resources. For five years, I lived in the Central Idaho region and frequently recreated in the area proposed in the DEIS. Whenever the opportunity arises, I return to the area to fish, hike, backpack and ski. .

The impacts of expanded mining activity represents an unacceptable risk to this watershed."

This project is not in the best interest of our planet, shared habitats, or the longevity of those who depend upon public lands in this country.

I have lived in Colorado for over 50 years and the disastrous experiences we have sustained through the years with EPA sites like Gold King Mine well I don't want to see that happen in the headwaters of the Salmon River! . I am writing as a concerned citizen, a whitewater enthusiast who visits your state several times a year to enjoy its pristine rivers and a stakeholder who utilizes these public lands in their current undiminished state.

Please stop the Stibnite Gold Project which is continuing the destruction of western wild places. My husband and I are avid campers and hikers, and want public lands to stay intact, and as wild as possible. The profits of corporations should have small priority compared to those of citizens and tribal groups whose lands these are. as this river system is vitally important for native and endangered fish, outdoor recreation, and economic vitality of our community. Just because financial gain can be made for some the cost on the environment, the people who use these waterways the animals plants and other native species is too great of an impact . Please do not go forward with allowing this devastation

I live near Telluride, Colorado, where the impacts of large-scale gold mining are still being felt today. I understand the need for economic development, but in the case of the Midas project, the benefits of the mine will go to a small group of investors who neither live near or care about the Salmon River. While the resource of metal in the ground is substantial, there is also the tremendous resource of a wild river unpolluted, and ecosystem intact, and a wilderness preserved. I urge you to consider the loss of these resources as overwhelmingly unacceptable in light of the potential benefit to a few private equity investors from some far away land.

Please protect this amazing river!!!

Protecting nature's beauty benefits us all and will continue to benefit future generations. If it's destroyed by mining, we can't get back what was lost.

"While I do not live there year-round, I am a concerned citizen who utilizes these public lands every year. .

The DEIS is incomplete as submitted and does not meet the established regulatory mandate as it does not fully evaluate ALL potential impacts due to the omission of critical issues such as tailings dam failure, acid mine drainage and cyanide spill risks. The DEIS should be rejected as incomplete. The proposal should be rejected as it conflicts with any reasonable interpretation of the USFS mandate regarding either multiple-use or responsible resource management. There is no valid needs-scarcity assessment or cost-benefit analysis that justifies authorizing this project under these circumstances in this location."

The upper south fork/Johnson creek area is someplace special that I frequently make extended trips to in order to enjoy the pristine water quality. I have been to Stibnite and I have seen the effects of mining on watersheds across the west. No resource is more important or more precious than clean water. Hindsight tells us that despite claims made by mine owners and operators, things ALWAYS go bad, water is poisoned, wildlife dies.

Paddlers support local businesses and positively influence local economies.

The salmon river maybe freshwater, and go through the land. But it still connects the ocean that's a part of our entire ecosystem. The project in plan Would affect a small portion of the ecosystem of the salmon river. Which would then lead to other parts of the ecosystem of the same river at a larger hole. And then slowly but eventually, everything but river touches will have its ecosystem affected.

The DEIS clearly states that all of the alternatives presented, apart from Alternative 5, would adversely affect federally listed endangered fish species and their habitat. Please do not let this mining move forward. It will line the pockets of the rich while destroying nature for animals and humans alike. We are already grossly affecting the local area in a negative way, we do not need to show our future children that our priorities lay with self centered gain. This fishery, this ecosystem, this recreational area, and thia biosphere needs your protection.

Please dont continue mining in this area. Please

The South Fork Salmon and its tributaries were in an important part to my childhood as us kids played in, and around, these rivers. Today, I guide raft trips on the Main Salmon, and I kayak the South Fork Salmon frequently. This year alone, I have been lucky enough to enjoy the South fork Salmon 7 separate times, for many days at a time. This area is so unbelievably special. . I

NO GOLD MINE!!!! Please...YES TO ALTERNATIVE 5

Losing this resource would be taken the same as a death of a loved one. Knowing that areas exactly like this are exploited all across the country, sometimes not even for substantial economic gain, has me questioning the survival of our species. Stepping outside myself, and considering all the other species, let alone individual organisms the Stibnite Mine would affect; it is appalling that the a mine would ever be deemed an acceptable use of such a beautiful and pristine area. Mining is HIGHLY subject to unforeseen circumstances, when estimating economic benefit. However, from numerous examples across the country, the impact a mine makes on the environment is known. The issues are grand in scale, and often exist in perpetuity. I fret for a society that can't recognize it's actions as parasitic, where constant spread and depletion of local resources in the only goal. We NEED to place emphasis on sustainable economic drivers, that operate within the environment in which we live, because resouce extraction only works until you are out of resources. This IS possible, yet should be an unthinkable goal. Besides, if the profits of the mine were shared with all the people affected by the mine... it probably wouldn't even be considered. Personal greed should never outweigh the universal benefit. .

It is more important to have clean and healthy water air and soil than the benefits of mining gold. The salmon are a vital part of the ecosystem and they should take priority over mining. Please go with alternative 5.

I am an River/Fishing guide in in great state of Idaho. I have been working in the tourism industry for over 12 years. One of the many very important aspects of Idaho is the simple fact that for outdoors men and women you can truly get "out" into the wilderness and among these pristine waters. Idahos wild areas have clean water. Water is one of the most important resources in the entire world. I guide overseas as well in Africa and South America during the Winter months...and speaking from experience...there are so many other peoples who suffer from a direct result of unclean waterways. Almost always this is a direct result of development (mining/logging) along the banks or drainage systems of these waterways. To put the South Forks water in jeopardy for mining projects is just absolutely reckless and absurd. I say that as an outdoor professional who is a part of this industry and also as lover of the outdoors in the great state of Idaho. Thank you for reading and taking this comment seriously. ., .

DEIS clearly identifies risks to this project this is not a time to be destroying ecosystems.

Please please do not do this.

My family has enjoyed this area for decades and I want my own children, nieces and nephews and their children can enjoy this beautiful wilderness for many generations that will come after us.

I have paddled in and around the Salmon River drainage since 2006, and no where else in the world have I seen beauty like The Salmon Rivers. You are disturbing so much more than just the land by allowing this type of extraction and its effects will be felt by many many more people and creatures than you would think. .

We need more wild places! Not mines! ., .

"The Salmon River Basins are all very dear to me. The environmental impacts of this proposal cannot be mitigated in a way that will adequately protect the South Fork of the Salmon and this downstream areas as they deserve and require.

Please don't be on the wrong side of history. Protect our valuable and finite resources."

Due to covid, I lost my job this year and was forced to leave the Mountain West and move back east to hunker down and get by. One of the things fueling me throughout this insane year has been the prospect of returning, and finding a way to be present in the land I love! This year has shown us so clearly how easily "balance" can be upended, and although we've known of climate change for years and done nothing, the point of no return is finally coming upon us. We have no idea what effect this will have on the world! We know that ice will melt, oceans rise and coasts flood - but there is so much we cannot anticipate. It is so, so deeply important that we learn to treat our natural lands with respect, and this very much includes planned mining operations. There must be better ways of extracting resources than using harmful chemicals, diverting waterways and drastically altering habitats - and if there are no better ways, then the "resources" should be left alone, while we learn to better appreciate the ones we have right now.

If we allow this watershed to be destroyed, it will be lost forever. Please preserve it for our children and grandchildren.

Don't destroy one of the greatest areas in the world!!!!!! Go to hell

As a resident of Maryland I've traveled to the region numerous times specifically because of its pristine river systems and intact ecosystems. Allowing this mining project would cause me to look to other pristine areas. Stick to managing the forests and leave the ground intact. .

I think these past few months we have all realized how important wild places are to us. Given the current state of the country this area is much more valuable without a mine, having an opportunity for all to keep their mental sanity and get out into the backcountry. What Midas Gold is trying to accomplish will do nothing but destroy an amazing area. When it comes to the DEIS document I see nothing but loop hole that would allow them to leave our rivers contaminated, further destroying the restoration we have already accomplished. On top of that how can they build roads, housing, infrastructure and have heavy equipment going in and out of that area without having an environmental impact? We can achieve restoration without the mine as we continue on the path we are already on.

"There has been a lot of change in Idaho and Valley County in the last 20 years. To no surprise, I spent my childhood exploring McCall and spending all my time outside. I still spend most of my free time doing the things I loved as a kid, which included whitewater kayaking. Little did I know at age 15 that I would be kayaking the East Fork of the South Fork and South Fork Salmon Rivers. Since then I have returned many springs and summers to enjoy these amazing sections of river that characteristics unlike other places I have paddled. I do spend 4 months each winter in South America (Chile and Argentina) traveling and searching for rivers to kayak. My first trip to Chile was in 2004 and I have since gone back 9 times. I would have returned this year were it not due to covid. The point is that I have kayaked in many countries (China, New Zealand, Mexico, Canada) and the South Fork Salmon + EFSF Salmon rivers are very unique. I would say they are Idaho gems. They used to be relatively unknown to many people outside the paddling community or fishing or other folk that use them. I find now there are a lot of people using and abusing the river. I will say that Midas Gold wasn't on my radar until a few years ago when it picked up traction. I don't think it's hard to guess which side of the fence I stand on. I have seen the post mining effects of past Midas Gold operations in other countries like Argentina. I am not impressed and I know that a few bad ones doesn't mean they're all bad, but in the case of the Stibnite Project is a bad idea in my opinion. There is too much to risk and I don't think the mining benefits outweigh the toll it will have on the environment. There are already endangered fish species that have a challenging time returning to spawn. Any change in the

river or surrounding area will have some effect on anything downstream. The South Salmon Watershed is too great to loose to a mining operation. The idea of a new road on Burnt Log Rd is a bad idea as well. I see the problems of transporting anything on the current via Yellowpine. I also work for the USFS and spend a lot of time working around Stibnite/ YP. As an individual who values the rivers and spectacular whitewater resources of Idaho, I am writing to support Alternative 5, the No Action Alternative outlined in the Stibnite Gold Project's Draft Environmental Impact Statement. I am not writing representing a "special interest group," I am writing as a concerned citizen and stakeholder who utilizes these public lands in their current undiminished state, lands for which I am an owner of and for which the Forest Service is directed to manage in the public interest. The rivers of the South Fork Salmon watershed contain world class whitewater that paddlers from across the country and the world travel to Idaho to visit. The DEIS clearly states that all of the alternatives presented, apart from Alternative 5, would adversely affect federally listed endangered fish species, their habitat, and the watershed's water quality and quantity. It is incredibly important to me personally that the Forest Service protect the outstanding water quality of this major tributary to the Wild and Scenic Salmon River, as this river system is vitally important for native and endangered fish, outdoor recreation, and the economic vitality of the local communities that surround it.

Moving forward with this project would not only adversely impact my personal enjoyment of this public resource through whitewater paddling, camping and fishing, it would negatively impact all of the people of Idaho who rely on the hundreds of thousands of visitors each year to our National Forests. The [Truncated In Original Attachment]"

"Please don't allow this to happen. Once it's given up it's gone forever; humans can't reproduce it and the negative impacts will have a cascading effect. Idaho's economy depends on its most valuable trait - its exquisite natural habitat.

The impacts of expanded mining activity represents an unacceptable risk to the watershed of the South Fork of the Salmon River."

The South Fork Salmon River must be protected for today and future generations. The South Fork Salmon River must be protected for today and future generations.

While , my main objection to the project is because of how it will affect local fish and animal species. This so unacceptable. as this river system is VITAL not only to the native and endangered fish, but also to outdoor recreation, and the economic vitality of the local communities that surround it.

This message is in regard to the Stibnite Gold Project's Draft Environmental Impact Statement. I have had some very enjoyable times over the years on the EF South Fork and South Fork rivers as well as Johnson Creek and wish for the overall high quality of those experiences (boating, fishing, and camping) to be maintained. I have not had sufficient time to review the formally proposed alternatives, but overall I am against options that would: - leaves taxpayers holding the bag for any costs (present or future remediation, etc) - involve new public land disturbance (e.g. I do not like the 400 ac proposed for tailings storage) - diminish water quality - reduce hunting, fishing, boating, camping, or other public access I favor options that: - maintain the existing disturbance footprint - remediate past disturbance without release of toxic substances (e.g. metals via surface and/or groundwater directly or indirectly into live streams) - adequately plan for and prevent issues (e.g. fire, weed control, dust abatement) associated with ancillary infrastructure (transmission lines, roads, etc).

As an environmental consultant, I have reviewed and written many EISs and have seen too many broken promises regarding safety and clean ups, including company bankruptcies leaving clean up responsibility to government entities.

Keep the environmental movement progressing forward, not bringing back outdated industries.

Please don't add to the pollution of our waterways.

As if enough beautiful/precious wilderness/nature hasn't been stripped enough from us folk that actually have an inherent connection to the land.. but in America.. Even when our own people don't want the specific change If it makes \$ and ultimately makes matters worse in the long run.. then we will jump right on top of it!!! Have some respect.

The S. Fork of Salmon is one of the last wild rivers in the continental US. Please protect it

People come from all over to visit the rivers of the South Fork Salmon watershed. Aside from Alternative 5, all of the alternatives presented would adversely affect federally listed endangered fish species, their habitat, and the

watershed's water quality and quantity. It is incredibly important to me personally that the Forest Service protect the outstanding water quality of this tributary to Salmon River. . Going forward with this project would not only adversely impact my personal enjoyment of this public resource through whitewater paddling, camping and fishing, We see evidence of past mining activity, and the impacts of further mining activity is a dangerous risk to this watershed.

I am deeply upset by the proposed large-scale mining project in the South Fork Salmon! This is not acceptable! If we continue to destroy the natural world, we will have nothing left. Nature is most beautiful when it is pristine. I am incredibly worried about the state of our Idahoan wilderness, should this mining project be allowed. The Idaho wilderness must be protected, AT ALL COSTS. Idaho is such a wonderful state because of all the pristine nature we still have left. A mining project will ruin the South Fork for all those who love it and appreciate it. As a native Idahoan and a lover of the outdoors, I value the gorgeous rivers running through our state. It is imperative to keep these rivers clean.

The irreversible damage to the ecosystem this proposed mine would do to this watershed, our salmon, bull trout and pristine drainage is not worth the short term gain we would achieve. Look elsewhere and muck fidas! The watershed is home to an unbelievable quality of plants and animals, and I am grateful to be a person who is able to hunt, fish, paddle, hike, camp, and so much more on these public lands in their current undiminished state,, . It is not only the fish in this watershed and downstream that would be impacted, but all of the plant and animal species who live in symbiosis with this river. We can not afford to do harm to the elk, moose, wolves, bears, and all other beings who rely on the habitat provided by the South Fork Salmon.

I am writing as a concerned citizen who views these public lands in their current undiminished state as a breathtaking ecosystem worthy of being protected. This river system is vital for native and endangered fish, outdoor recreation, and the economic development of local communities that surround it. The rivers of the South Fork Salmon watershed contain world class whitewater that attract paddlers and tourists from across the world. Moving forward with this project would negatively impact all of the people of Idaho who rely on the hundreds of thousands of visitors each year to the National Forests. It is incredibly important to me, personally that the Forest Service protect the outstanding water quality of this major tributary to the Wild and Scenic Salmon River.

Furthermore, the proposed mine site is located within the Nimi'ipuu people's aboriginal territory. Going forward with the project as proposed would greatly effect the Nimi'ipuu's fishing, hunting, gathering, and pasturing rights as outlined in its 1855 Treaty with the US. The South Fork Salmon River is finally healing from the scars of past mining activity, and the possibility of expanded mining activity is an unacceptable risk to this watershed.

Please do not allow this mine to destroy one of the most beautiful places I have ever visited. Protect our land please.

Beyond being passionate about rivers and fish habitat we believe in the importance and necessity to protect the short and long term sustainability of our Watershed. We work hard to contribute within our McCall community- having relocated to the area 5 years ago to take full advantage of Wild and Scenic Salmon River and raise our boys with unfiltered access to the outdoors- which continues to be paramount in the health and well being of the next generation. Stibnite Gold Project will adversely impact access to our precious dwindling resources, DOES NOT provide long term careers for our children and fails to be a leader in environmental protection.

As a lifelong resident of Idaho who values the rivers and spectacular whitewater resources of the my home.

Please do not let a natural resource that belongs to the people be destroyed by a private interest group.

Please don't loos sight of the real treasure in the Headwaters of the Salmon River, not the gold, but the river itself and all the creatures who make it their home.

"The rivers of the South Fork Salmon watershed contain world class whitewater that I and paddlers from across the globe travel to Idaho to enjoy. It is incredibly important to me personally that the Forest Service protect the outstanding water quality of this major tributary to the Wild and Scenic Salmon River. This river system is vitally important for native and endangered fish, outdoor recreation, and the economic vitality of the local communities that surround it.

The South Fork Salmon River is only beginning to heal from the scars of past, and the impacts of expanded mining activity represents an unacceptable risk to this watershed."

Nothing can replace what we have in the wild places like the South Fork Salmon drainage. Please don't permanently diminish this irreplaceable landscape for the greed of so few. Our public lands must be protected

from schemes like this, now and forever.

I urge the Forest Service to approach this project in a much more precautionary way, and to conduct a Supplemental Draft Environmental Impact Statement (SDEIS) for the Stibnite Gold Project located in the headwaters of Idaho's South Fork Salmon River. The current environmental review fails to adequately analyze environmental impacts resulting from construction of the proposed Stibnite Gold project, or consider a reasonable range of alternatives. The DEIS fails to consider underground mining operations as an alternative to massive open pit development or explain why such an alternative is infeasible. Underground mining operations could greatly reduce the most adverse environmental impacts and must be considered. Critical analysis of the environmental impacts resulting from open pit mining operations, include the controversial use of cyanide heap-leach processes in a sensitive watershed, is either missing entirely or inaccessible to the public. The DEIS contains a summary chart of more than two full pages of incomplete or unavailable information which, by the Forest Service's own admission, are "deemed essential to a reasoned choice among alternatives" (See Table 4.1-2). This is unacceptable, considering the public interests involved. In addition to releasing all incomplete data, please conduct a thorough Supplemental DEIS and comment period that addresses the following: (1) The efficacy and longevity of the lining under the tailings impoundment, and any potential avenues of breach to it or impoundment walls (2) Completion of missing analysis and information necessary to understand potential impacts to water quality, recreation and wildlife, as outlined in DEIS table 4.1-2. Finally, I am urging the agency to deny a permit to the mine if the EIS finds ANY risk to the water quality of the South Fork Salmon River. ,

In particular, the South Fork Salmon is a real gem, remote and remarkably untouched. I'm writing against the Stibnite Gold Project, which poses a great environmental risk, not just to the South Fork but the entire Salmon riparian ecosystem.

I typically raft the river and hike in this area at least several times per year, and I believe it's a natural resource that should be preserved for the general public to enjoy. There are surely other areas that are not as beautiful and not such a treasure to sportsmen/women where gold mining can take place. I believe it's important for the Forest Service to give equal weight to all users of public lands, not let extractive uses take priority.

The South Fork Salmon is one of the mostly highly sought after kayak runs in the United States. Some people are fortunate enough to paddle the river every year, and others like myself have only had the starts align once. Even just the one trip was an event more rewarding than any accomplishment I've had at work, or any ballgame I've attended.

I have made many river trips to beautiful Idaho, and spent a lot of money there, so why ruin the state? ., .

We recently celebrated my husband's birthday in this amazing place and recognize the importance of protecting it. .

As a user of the fantastic whitewater that Idaho has to offer I do not agree with the allowance of a mining operation in the South Fork Salmon watershed. This stretch of river is known as a whitewater paradise with pristine paddling, camping, fishing, and sight seeing. Too many adverse outcomes come from upstream mines and I am strongly opposed to allowing such an operation. It endangers fish as well as the well being of folks who are downstream. I have witnessed too many of our rivers become sludge streams due to mining in Colorado and Utah to not vocalize how terrible of an idea this is. Please, do not allow another mining operation to ruin some of the most pristine wilderness we still have.

I visit this river yearly with my family, sometimes more than once a year. I vehemently oppose any actions that would threaten it.

I am a Whitewater kayaker who has traveled to Idaho specifically to kayak the South fork of the salmon. I am strongly opposed to this proposal and it would impact my plans to visit the state in the future. ., .

It is critical to protect this wild and scenic river AND the water quality and ALL wildlife dependent on it!!

The rivers of the South Fork Salmon watershed contain world class whitewater that, although I have not enjoyed yet, is worthy enough that paddlers and fisherman from across the country and the world travel to Idaho to visit. We cannot allow such a precious resource as the South Fork of the Salmon to risk being damaged for a gold mine that likely will not be worth the time and effort.

I have driven from Tennessee 3 times to experience the wonders of the Salmon River and a gold mine would damage that beauty and stop me from contributing to the economic prosperity of that part of Idaho., .

The Stibnite Gold project lies in the headwaters of the South Fork of the Salmon, critical habitat for Chinook

salmon, steelhead, and bull trout. The Forest Service is directed to manage in the public interest. The US Forest Service itself has said "The South Fork Salmon River contains the most important remaining habitat for summer chinook salmon in the Columbia River basin. The fish were once the largest, most valuable segment of the world's largest runs of chinook salmon." In addition. Do not let Midas threaten our wild fish, ecosystems, scenic beauty and recreational opportunities. Say NO to Midas and the Stibnite project.

This proposed project is located in the mountains where I spend a significant amount of time recreating, and impacts the Salmon river drainage where I once earned my livelihood river guiding. The costs of road building and maintenance combined with mine activity impacts outweigh the benefits of the project as proposed. .

I have floated the south fork of the salmon, and floated by the confluence of the south fork and the main sail in countless times. This is not a place we can afford to lose. It is not a place we can just throw away to be destroyed by another dirty mine.

"The South Fork of the salmon watershed contains world class whitewater and recreation opportunities that will be put in jeopardy or ruined if this mine is allowed to proceed. For 20 years I have made a living falling timber in Montana and Idaho and I know that the short term gain of this mine is tempting but the value of the river and untarnished wilderness far outweigh the short term monetary gain. Our rivers are not a renewable resource, once an accident happens and the safety precautions that are promised to be put in place fail the south fork will be forever changed and possibly ruined. The value of this watershed will in the long run sustain many more jobs through tourism, fishing, and hunting than a mine ever could. The money brought in by these activities will sustain the community's forever if this mine is not developed and not just a booming few years if it is.

Please do not follow in the footsteps of so many other areas that approved mines only to see the area destroyed, the mining company declare bankruptcy and leave the locals to foot the bill of the cleanup. Afterwards we are left with an area that no longer brings in revenue from tourism, no longer has a viable fisheries, no longer has world class hunting or wildlife habitat and no longer has mining jobs sustaining it."

This type of human impact in this area is dangerous and has consequences. . Proceeding with this project would negatively impact me and all the of visitors to this area. We have one beautiful world to save here - to stop humans from mindlessly destroying - and this is an example of that. The South Fork Salmon River is not appropriate for new mining activity.

Also, importantly, we need to respect the Nez Perce tribe and their rights and relationship to the land. Too often indigenous people are left completely out of the conversation.

My family has recreated and use these lands for years, they need to be put towards conservation.

Please don't allow this mining to ruin the headwaters of the Salmon. This water is important in many ways from fishing habitat to recreational activities such as rafting. We all need to share this clean water source and not pollute it with mining.

I paddled the south fork salmon about seven years ago. It was stunning. A close second to the Grand Canyon. I recommend it to friends. I look forward to running it again. It would be a shame if this river lost it's pristine character. Please protect it.

The Salmon River in Idaho is one of the rivers I've fallen in love with. A unique and priceless ecosystem surrounds this watershed. The natural state of the river is worth more than any amount of gold that could be extracted. Please stop putting selfish desires above our planet's wellbeing.

PROTECT THE SOUTH FORK SALMON!!!!

STOP poisoning the earth, water and people living on the land in question ! , , .

Mining will impact these habitats. We should be moving away from these destructive approaches as we try to mitigate the anthropogenic impact on the environment. . , .

As a member of Team River Runner, I have been privileged to bring disabled veterans to enjoy the whitewater of the Salmon. .

Moving forward with this project would not only adversely impact my personal enjoyment of this public resource through whitewater paddling, camping and fishing

Moving forward with this project would negatively impact all of the people of Idaho who rely on the hundreds of thousands of visitors each year to our National Forests. We must protect this habitat, and protect the diversity of wildlife and activities that it supports.

I have a dream of rafting this river with my family in the next few years and I want this bucket list trip to be

special. I want the water to run cleanly! .

.I am writing as a concerned citizen and stakeholder who loves paddling the rivers of Idaho and hope that my children can paddle these rivers as well.

PROTECT WILD SALMON RUNS AND WILD RIVERS! The south fork of the salmon river should be a wild and scenic river, not a mine site. Protect what few wild spaces we still have left, don't sell Idaho to interest groups who do not care about the environmental damage they cause.

It should be noted by now how important the health of our environment is to the health of ourselves. It has been too many incidences that have occurred where the environment has been taken advantage of for the benefit of major corporations. These major corporation constantly put out well being at risk for the benefit of a small group of individuals to make capital gains. The benefits of this project will never outweigh the benefits of a healthy ecosystem, or a healthy community.

I am writing to you today with a very important request in support of the years of work of the Nez Perce tribe here in Idaho. Please provide time and resources for a supplemental draft EIS as required by law to include the impact on the Nez Perce tribe, water, land, and local communities near the SF Salmon river. We need additional information on the impact of arsenic, pollution, public and private land, as well as, what type of liner will be used to store tailings, transportation disclosure and risks, impact on native fish including water temperature, and the infrastructure required to maintain the project. Additionally, I strongly oppose Midas Gold's Stibnite project near McCall and the Frank Church-River of No Return Wilderness. This project will threaten pristine land and waters in the South Fork of the Salmon River watershed. ., .

"The eco tourism alone would make more money for the state of Idaho long term than a mining company who will destroy the ecosystem and tourism and cost taxpayers money for years to come when this corrupt company goes bankrupt (like they all do) and leaves it to everyone else to clean up. Do they even have a plan on how they will help clean up a tailings spill or dam breach after the project is over? How will they help the ecosystem and these fish once the gold is extracted and they go back home to their rich little lives unaffected by a fractured river system, and unaccountable.

Allowing this mine to proceed is essentially writing off these species for extinction. They don't care for the watershed or it's non-human stakeholders, and this gold will just end up in some basement somewhere. . My profession as a whitewater guide on the Salmon relies on clean water, an intact habitat for enjoying and fishing, and peace of mind that I won't have to worry about tailings entering the watershed and poisoning myself and my guests and all the creatures who depend on a healthy ecosystem. In short, this mine will kill the Salmon River. " As an individual who values the preservation of pristine rivers and the ecosystems for the wildlife that live therein. The rivers of the South Fork Salmon watershed contain world class that paddlers from across the country and the world travel to Idaho to. The pristine waters of the South Fork Salmon watershed holds a magic that keeps bringing myself and many others back year after year. .

Mining this natural wilderness irreparably damages the native ecosystem and to the benefit of a small number of people. The outdoor recreation economic opportunities are more sustainable for generations and benefit a larger number of people, particularly those who live in the area than the mine will.

Paddling the South Fork Salmon is a goal that in many ways has driven my whitewater career, and inspired me to visit and work in Idaho. My career as a paddler is relatively new. As such, when I spent the past summer in Idaho, every time a group of paddlers would come back with smiles and hours of incredible stories, I could only dream of what it would be like to paddle the South Fork. The prospect of being able to go visit it myself and actually paddle down it has literally defined my lifestyle, inspiring me to spend more time on the river so that I can train to descend it. The idea that this river, which is a pinnacle achievement to me and a place I am so excited to be able to explore, will be degraded before I am able to see it is absolutely heartbreaking. To avoid this heartbreak, I am commenting to **PROTECT THE SOUTH FORK SALMON!** .

I can not believe this is even an idea being entertained. I am an avid boater and someone that strongly values the safety and protection of these beautiful rivers.

"I am writing to you again to reiterate how much the South Fork of the Salmon means to me and others. The this is an incredibly stretch of river that cannot be replaced. The Stibnite Gold Project would irreversibly harm the fish population, the whitewater, and other parts of the surrounding ecosystem.

This is public land and the people who enjoy this area realize it's value is much higher than the gold it contains.

Do not mine here."

"The rivers of the South Fork Salmon watershed contain world class whitewater that I, a paddler from Tennessee, and other paddlers from across the country and the world travel to Idaho to visit. I've travelled to Idaho to paddle the South Fork of the Salmon on 3 separate occasions since 2014, and I consider it the finest whitewater river of its difficulty and style in North America. On the first 2 trips, my brother and I were able to share the river experience together, which is always a treat for close siblings now separated by thousands of miles. My father has been rafting in Idaho at least yearly since the 1960s and had long dreamed of paddling the South Fork of the Salmon. In 2019, I was able to make his dream come true by accompanying him on a trip down the South Fork. Being able to share an experience on this river with him has been one of the highlights of my lifetime kayaking experience. I hope, with good fortune with my father's health, that my father, my brother, and I are able to accompany my now 1 year old daughter and 3 month old niece down the the South Fork about 12 years from now, and that when we're ready to make that journey, that the river is in even better ecological condition than it is now, as the area continues to recover from the legacy of previous mining.

Suffice it to say, I think the South Fork of the Salmon has value equivalent to the revered nearby Middle Fork of the Salmon and Main Salmon, and that it's value will only continue to increase in the future as the popularity of whitewater in the area continues to grow."

The DEIS clearly states that all of the alternatives presented, apart from Alternative 5, would adversely affect federally listed endangered fish species, their habitat, and the watershed's water quality and quantity under operations as intended. We have seen the failure of tailings dams of mining and coal fired power plant waste time and again. The question is not if this mine will leak hazardous cyanide leachate into this watershed, but when. The water, fish and animal species, and recreational value (income generated for local communities) are all day more valuable to the United States and its citizens than any proposed royalties from mining. I urge you to adopt Alternative No. 5.

This is one of the last rivers for migration of wild chinook salmon, bull trout, and steelhead in the world and extremely important in the Columbia River basin. This whole project is prioritizing a shiny metal over the lives and territory of native American tribes, the natural beauty of an incredible canyon, and some of the strongest, fittest fish species on earth. This is completely unnecessary and will be met with very strong opposition if built. The role of the Forest Service is to protect and conserve public lands, not destroy and industrialize over them. This project is a disgrace. Don't fucking build it.

I have kayaked the South Fork of the Salmon down to the Main Salmon and it is an outstanding resource for kayakers, rafters at lower water levels, and even pack rafters now. It is a treasure in the Salmon River drainage and needs to be protected now and for future generations.

"I am writing to submit just the beginning of many concerns regarding the Stibnite GOLD Project. With its current content I am advocating strongly for Alternative 5, no action. I have outlined just a few of the most concerning topics below. Native American Rights: What considerations have been taken into account of Nez Perce rights and positions on this proposal?

Social-cultural and economic impacts intertwined with environmental impacts should be addressed in the DEIS. The executive summary does not specifically name any tribes (in particular land stolen in the land grab treaty of 1863) and the need to maintain the hunting and fishing lands of the Nez Perce tribe. Further, the 216 page plan document has ZERO mechanisms for specific inclusion of tribal governments, or a measure of impacts specific to Native American people or tribes who utilize this region for fishing and hunting. This proposal would disproportionately impact local tribes, and there is no mechanism to balance out that disproportionality. (The prefix trib as in tribe or tribal is used twice in the document, with no specific tribes named). Fish: The DEIS p. 3.12.1 describes four special status fish and the Forest Service has preliminarily determined that project will adversely affect bull trout (pg. 4.12-87), Chinook salmon (pg. 4.12-69), steelhead (pg. 4.12-75), and their critical habitats; and may indirectly impact Westslope cutthroat trout (pg. 4.12-93). South Fork Salmon River is not pristine, but it is wild, free-flowing, largely within public lands, undeveloped, and supports native fish. While all fish are of management interest, four special status native salmonids(i.e., fish in the family which includes salmon and trout) are of particular interest because of their status as 4 federally-listed fish or fish of management concern. These all require cold, clear, clean, running water and varying unobstructed migration pathways to complete their life cycles. Chinook and bull trout are listed as threatened species. What are the implications of

the Endangered Species Act in these circumstances? What considerations does the best available science recommend in order to maintain and protect these species? Wildlife: The plan describes wildlife habitat restoration, and certain protections for unnamed wildlife, fish, and birds, but neglects to specifically mention small mammal species who are at greatest risk for death/adverse health impacts from antimony runoff. Additionally, the plan includes a "wildlife mortality reporting tool" - thus acknowledging that this will kill wildlife...The goal would be NOT to kill wildlife, rather than have a tool to report the death of the wildlife. Access: "The Payette National Forest did not offer printed copies of the DEIS to the general public; the Forest made the DEIS available in electronic form only. The failure to provide printed copies arbitrarily excludes a significant portion of the public from participation in the DEIS process. If a person doesn't have a good computer, reliable Internet service, and enough computer skill to negotiate the document [mdash] the DEIS is essentially unavailable. Additionally, it is well-documented that Internet access is much more limited for families that are low-income, rural, American Indian/Alaska Native, Black, or Latino, compared to more affluent white families. The Payette National Forest's failure to provide printed copies hinders public participation and is an abuse of discretion, discriminatory, and unethical. As someone with the privilege to voice my concerns here, I am doing so for those who have not been extended the opportunity. Additionally, the Stibnite Gold Project EIS #50516 Comment Page has been unresponsive most of the day today, and each of the other days that I have [Truncated in Original Attachment]" Our wild public lands are precious and irreplaceable! We need to protect them. I want my children and grandchildren to have them there.

As an outdoor enthusiast who values the rivers and spectacular whitewater resources of Idaho. I want these wild areas around for the future so I can enjoy them with my children and grandchildren, and future generations.

There are some places in the world that are worth protecting, this is one of them

"As a journalist with a background in fluvial geomorphology, I have been following this mine for quite some time. I have interviewed Midas Gold multiple times, spoken with several biologists and a fluvial geomorphologist working on the mine, spoken with the Nez Perce Tribe, and chatted with conservationists who are opposed to the issue. I have put a lot of time into learning about the specifics of the project, the differences between the various alternative plans, and the mitigation efforts set forth by Midas Gold. My conclusion is that the DEIS is missing lots of key information regarding environmental impacts of the mine, as well as missing information about people who use the river drainage on a regular basis. This, combined with Midas Gold's lack of plan for the future (I am talking 50+ years out) of the mine, makes me urge you to choose Alternative Plan #5, the no action plan. Missing information from the DEIS includes downstream effects of the mine, which are not mentioned at all in the executive summary of the DEIS. This is a RIVER, and thus anything that happens at the headwaters of the river will have a significant impact on anything and everything downstream of that. This includes the Main Salmon River, which is the

second-largest free-flowing river in the United States. Why would you put a detrimental mine at the headwaters to a tributary of the second-largest free-flowing river in the United States? Not only will it impact fish populations in the East Fork South Fork Salmon, but also the Main Salmon, the Snake River, the Columbia River, and it could potentially even impact Orca populations in the Pacific Ocean via lowering Chinook Salmon Populations. The DEIS is also missing evidence to support the fish tunnel that Midas Gold has proposed around the Yellow Pine pit. There is no evidence to show that a fish tunnel will work to allow fish to pass. In fact, a fish tunnel of this sort has never been constructed on a river. All the evidence that Midas Gold is using to support the fish tunnel is coming from fish tunnels between reservoirs, not fish tunnels in rivers. I was told by Midas Gold that whether the tunnel is located in a river vs. between reservoirs should not have an impact on its effectiveness. But where is the evidence to back this up? Where are the scientists who say this is true? Where are the impact statements of other fish tunnels on rivers saying that it worked? Where are the published articles supporting this? There aren't any, because it has never been done before. Realistically, Midas Gold is trying to mitigate negative impacts of the mine as much as they can. But also realistically - it is simply not possible to mitigate the environmental impacts of a mine that is at the headwaters of a large river drainage. There is already a large mining legacy at the headwaters of the East Fork South Fork Salmon, so why would you make it three times worse by re-mining the existing pit, and then adding two additional pits? This is backward thinking. The headwaters of a major river drainage is not the place to put a mine, plain and simple. This is why Alternative Plan #5 is the only reasonable plan to take. No action. All the environmental effects aside, I want to go back to the information that is missing in

the DEIS. The DEIS never once mentioned anglers and recreational and whitewater paddlers. These are key demographics who use the river corridor who were completely left out when considering impacts of the mine. The DEIS is lacking in so much information, so if you choose not to pick Alternative Plan #5, I urge you to at least review the DEIS with great scrutiny, as there is so much mitigation and restoration information missing from it. Lots more work needs to be done to realize [Truncated in Original Attachment]"

When trying to protect wilderness from development, every victory is temporary, and every loss permanent. Knowing the permanence of damage caused by mining I must voice my opposition to the Stibnite Gold Project. More specifically, I am voicing my support of Alternative 5, the No Action Alternative outlined in the Stibnite Gold Project's Draft Environmental Impact Statement., .

I am an avid whitewater kayaker and professional outdoorsman based out of Washington and Idaho seasonally. For the last seven years I have had the pleasure of working as a multi day river guide on the Salmon river which has allowed me access to the incredible South Fork Salmon on my off days. Not only is this river one of the most classic sections of whitewater you can find but it is also home to some of the most critical fish species—salmon, a keystone species. This river deserves to be protected from the pollutants that are inevitable when mining is present. Please think about the long term ramifications a decision like this will have on such a delicate and important ecosystem. Thank you for your time and consideration.

THIS IS AN EXAMPLE OF MARKET PRESSURE NOT IN YOUR FAVOR! THIS IS AN EXAMPLE OF MARKET PRESSURE NOT IN YOUR FAVOR! IM A CAPITALIST TOO BUT LISTEN TO THE MAJORITY!

"I have visited this area many times and am always awed by how wild and beautiful it is. I vehemently oppose any mining in this area, especially using an outdated method of open pit mining to extract gold. The fact that FWS would risk severely contaminating this unique area is disgraceful. If money and jobs are the driving factors leading this area to be sacrificed, why not promote the fishing and outdoor industry instead?

There is way more money to be made sustainably through outdoor tourism than the short term gains generated by mining. Please don't approve this project."

We can not afford to lose another one of America's great and scenic rivers. ., .

I have been fortunate enough to grow up immersed in all of the incredible outdoor spaces Idaho has to offer. I am a kayaker, rafter biker, rock climber, skier. All of these things are very important to me, but NONE are as important as protecting the dear state I love and its one-of-a-kind nature. We owe it to the land and to the native species and people who have inhabited it to do our absolute best to protect this place. The plan that Midas Gold has for the Stibnite project does not fit in with the goal of protecting the beautiful places we care so much about as Idahoans. ., .

The number one reason my family and I travel to (and spend money in) Idaho is to visit the rivers of the South Fork Salmon watershed. I implore you to stop the pillaging of our public lands by denying the Stibnite Gold Project!

Please do not allow the mining industry to exploit our natural lands for monetary gain. There simply are no needs that justify these means.

Please, do what is right for our future. Deep in your heart, you know the answer."

As an owner of these public lands, we should protect them for their own sake, not just for our sake. The salmon that depend on this river deserve the opportunity to thrive in their natural habitat.

The South Fork Salmon River is a place worth protecting. I've been fortunate enough to kayak it, and it's a spectacular and unique place. As a watershed scientist by training, I'm also aware of how sensitive it is to impactful landuses such as mining. In fact, there is quite a bit of literature demonstrating the sedimentary impacts associated with intensive landuse (e.g., see Megahan et al., 1992). I strongly suggest implementing the no action alternative (Alternative 5)

Having grown up near Butte, Montana and living with the consequences I find it hard to understand how open pit cyanide leaching is still an acceptable form of mining especially on public lands. I have worked in and around mines in Idaho, Montana, and Alaska and time after time mining companies promise minimal environmental impacts, great jobs for communities, and responsibility for incidents. It is never true. They kill sensitive species, import workers, and leave the public with the clean up bill. . .

We all ultimately lose with the impacts of expanded mining activity and unacceptable risk to this watershed.

My business is based on river recreation. My business suffers when my customers are not able to access great river systems. The South Fork is one of the few gems left. Please protect this river for future generations by blocking the proposed mine.

Please, mining would hurt a lot more than it would do good. It's not fair to everyone who relies on the waters for diverse reasoning. The future generations will not be able to enjoy this area and it will never be the same. This has also been a very quiet release, making me think that those that are proposing this would like to sneak around and do it without everyone giving an opinion. It's just not fair.

The Salmon River is extraordinary. No other river of such length, volume, and gradient has stayed so nearly intact throughout the years. While the natural rhythms of many other rivers have been destroyed, the Salmon continues to flow wild and free, dancing only to seasonal changes. There is no substitute for it. Having guided on the Salmon, I've felt the unparalleled energy of this special place and spent my best days along its banks. It calls to me like nowhere else ever has. Being simultaneously one of a kind and the last of its kind, The Salmon must be protected at all costs. . Midas Gold may claim that their project would restore the mine to pre-mine conditions but historically there have been no instances where a pit mine has left an environment in better shape than before. These resources are not replaceable.

I am one of the producers of this short film about the South Fork Salmon River: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=www_srAzBTA . I have spent a lot of time researching this proposal. While Midas' 'Plan Of Restoration And Operations' makes their proposal seem more like a goodwill restoration project than a mining project, I think when you dig deeper, it is obvious that there would be potentially damaging environmental impacts from this project that may outweigh the positives outlined in the PRO. I respect the balance we have to strike between conservation and industry. Mining is an important part of our economy, both for what it contributes to our industries and technology as well as it what it contributes to American jobs. However, I believe this project is not the right fit for this very special area. The risks are too high. This area was already damaged by mining in the past, and has finally come to a place where those impacts have dissipated. I don't think it makes sense to redevelop this mining site. While the industry related to tourism surrounding this river basin might not match those of a potential long term mining project, they should not be ignored. Regardless of financial incentives, I think the foremost concern with this project needs to be the preservation of a very important area of Idaho wilderness. I do not think this proposal should go forward. I support 'Alternative 5'.

I have grown up exploring and enjoying all that Stanley and its nearby wilderness has to offer. My grandpa taught me to fish on the Salmon River, I have enjoyed swimming in the hot springs since I was little, and I have always marveled in the beauty of the river and its surroundings. No mining project belongs in this untamed and beautiful forest and river ecosystem. I was taught to respect the wilderness and always leave it as I found it. This is a gross violation of every principle for how to treat Idaho's nature. Please think of the wildlife, the delicate balance of the ecosystem, and of people like me who have loved and cherished the Salmon River and grown up learning how to take care of it, and reconsider this proposal.

I am writing because I deeply value rivers and water as an essential part of our earth and all living things. I am also a boater who paddles river both because it brings me joy and as part of my work as a river instructor for NOLS. It is essential that the Forest Service cares for these public lands and waterways (lands for which the Forest Service is directed to manage in the public interest) and works to keep them in their current unpolluted state. . Moving forward with this project would not only adversely impact enjoyment of this public resource through whitewater paddling, camping and fishing,

I grew up in Idaho and one of my favorite memories ever was rafting the salmon. I hope someday to have kids of my own i can take on the same trip but destroying this land by mining for gold to a company that is not US based disgusting. Do not allow the mine to be built.

I am a whitewater boater who has visited the South Fork of the Salmon River on many occasions and has marveled at the pristine water that makes up the South Fork headwaters. As a user of our Forest Service lands I am afraid of the damage that may be done by this mine to these resources. The clean water, the salmon and steelhead, and the many other recreational opportunities of this area are irreplaceable and cannot be found in but only a few other places. The South Fork of the Salmon river is a jewel that should be protected and left to be enjoyed by all for now and in the future. Thank you.

"I am a 35 year old high school teacher who has spent time with students investigating the probable impacts of

the mining project at Stibnite, ID currently being proposed by Midas Gold. Through an educational and multifaceted exploration of place, I have been exposed to various perspectives on the issue. My team of high school students visited Yellow Pine in 2019 to understand more completely what the stakes are for this project. We visited the potential mine site, and received a tour from Midas gold representatives. When we visited we were embraced by the town of Yellow Pine. We met town elders who showed us the old schoolhouse and museum, and learned about the mining impact on Yellow Pine. We noted that there were significant losses in economy after the mine closed post WW2. That fact alone makes one hesitate to approve of the project currently proposed by Midas Gold. There may be short term gains for the economy in Yellow Pine due to large amounts of newcomers to the area, but overall, the boom-bust cycle of mining remains the same. There will be no long term positive local impacts from the influx of people into the area. In fact, a nearby community, McCall, Idaho has demonstrated strong resistance to the project, noting that river water quality will be impacted by the mine, and warning of the loss of biodiversity due to the destructive nature of the project. The nearest, largest population center, McCall, Idaho has had many rallies against the mine. That cultural opposition from a highly invested local population should clearly show the local attitude toward the mine project. People are against the mine. Not only are human beings against the reopening of the mine, but local native populations of plants and animals certainly will not benefit from further mining of the area. Entire areas will be covered in mining tailings and waste rock, which will further reduce habitat availability for animals native to the region.

Indeed, the current mass extinction crisis on earth, which has been shown to be a massive die-off of animal and plant species due to anthropogenic factors such as habitat loss, is an excellent reason in and of itself to deny this project the opportunity to go through. As we register the impact of human choices on the habitability of planet earth, we must become more conscientious of the fact that all species and populations of non human lifeforms have a place on earth- they assist in keeping the biosphere habitable through their very activity as living beings. If more crucial habitat is removed, more plants and animals will be lost. Wolverines, for example, which are extremely low in numbers, live in the region where this project is proposed. Wolverine habitat is lost through resource extraction, like mining. There are under 300 of these animals currently accounted for in the United States, Idaho, and the area in question, being one of the identified ranges for Wolverines. Is a bar of gold worth the loss of the potential future of an entire species of animals on earth, the only planet that has ever been identified to have life on it? It is crucial to ensure a biodiverse future for this planet. The idea that human resource extraction of materials from living systems, (like the mountains and streams and rivers impacted by this proposed mine) is of more value to people than the biodiversity that will be disturbed and endangered through the process is an antiquated, and limited view of how life works on earth. It is time for the Forest Service to serve the forests, and to ensure that their mission of 'Advocating a conservation ethic in promoting the health, productivity, diversity, and beauty of forests and associated lands is upheld. I strongly advocate for [Truncated in Original Attachment]"

Water and habitat should be protected

Clearly, mining has the potential to be extremely devastating to any watershed, especially in terms of water quality and fish habitat.

I ask that you consider implementing Alternative 5, the No Action Alternative outlined in the Stibnite Gold Project's Draft Environmental Impact Statement. I am writing as an individual concerned citizen and stakeholder who utilizes these public lands in their current undiminished state.

I was privileged enough to be able to purchase a six day Main Salmon rafting trip this summer, and bring economic value and support of jobs to Idaho during this much needed economic downturn. I really enjoyed my time visiting idaho via river, road, and air on two tiny plane flights over the interior of idaho. It is a beautiful state. I expect the powers that be to preserve and protect idaho's natural resources. Mining should only be allowed if it can be performed without adverse effects to other parts of the landscape, especially the waterways and fishies. Idaho receives grand economic return from its boating industries, so please allow that industry to be prosperous without mining damage.

Paddle in peace for all living things.

. The rivers of the South Fork Salmon watershed contain world class whitewater that paddlers, like myself, from across the country and the world travel to Idaho to visit. I am writing as a steward to the environment and someone who vigorously supports demonstrating respect of the natural world during recreational enjoyment of

special places, such as the South Fork and the Wild and Scenic Main Salmon Rivers. I am very much in opposition to this mining project inherent with cyanide leach processes and risks of dam failure, acid mine drainage, and cyanide spills, all of which could have lifetime-long downstream effects. .

I fish in Riggins, Idaho for my livelihood. We must not risk the fish and my job with this project.

I have traveled to Idaho every two or three years over the past several of decades. I enjoy the beauty and activities on all parts of the Salmon River. I have enjoyed white water paddling and fishing the river. I usually spend over a week in Idaho each visit and my longest visit was 6 weeks, during which I engaged in multiple activities on the Salmon River. It is necessary to protect this resource from the guaranteed devastation of the Stibnite Gold Project. Experience shows again and again that spoils retention dams will fail spreading toxic devastation through out the watershed. Leachate from the mining process is another proven environmental hazard that will pollute the area, destroying more than the river itself. 100 million tons of contaminated spoils left behind would be a tremendous burden on the tax payers of this nation because it will eventually need to be treated / restored.

I have rafted and kayaked the Salmon River and its tributaries dozens of times. I am totally opposed to this project.

As a neighbor to your beautiful state, I often find myself traveling to enjoy the amazing rivers each summer. They are spectacular natural resources that deserve utmost respect. We've seen the damage mining can do in places like Colorado a few years ago. AS a state you are one of the leaders in wilderness and natural beauty.

The outdoors are where we find out escape. Where we enjoy the sounds of birds in the trees and spend time in the cool water of the river. Don't let greed overtake our safe space our calm space, our escape. Sounds of machinery are not a replacement to bird sounds. Dirtied water is not a replacement to the cool clean runs. However, this isn't just about us, as humans and our safe space it is the home to an ecosystem full of living breathing communities of species that deserve more than what the results of mining will leave them.

"I have lived in Cascade, Idaho for the past 10 years, and in Idaho for the past twenty. What drew me to this region and this state were the incredible rivers and stunning wilderness.

These are immeasurably valuable to the quality of life here, and I believe that the short-term vision of supporting the mining project will ultimately detract from the region's future. Furthermore, I believe having critical fish and wildlife habitat preserved from the potentially devastating effects of mining is an important value. . I personally make at least one trip down the South Fork Salmon every year, and hope to do so for the rest of my life.

"The Middle Fork was the first real whitewater river that I ever oared, some 35 years ago. The river and it's pristine beauty opened up a new world for me, one that I have been involved in ever since!

Imagine the impact these clear, sparkling waters had on me as a young man and on the many others who have been changed by it's spectacular beauty."

Please, as a time when so much of what makes America so amazing is under attack, let's protect what we have. I deeply love the Salmon River, it's wildlife and wilderness.

this state, its river systems and landscapes are some of my most cherished places in the world. I value and regularly utilize the rivers and spectacular whitewater resources of Idaho.

I am an individual that values our rivers, endemic fisheries, wildlife, and science based land management. The rivers of the South Fork Salmon watershed contain world class whitewater, pristine clear waters, a multitude of recreation and critical habitat for wildlife and fisheries. The U.S. Forest Service is tasked with managing public lands in the interest of multiple users and is saddens me that USFS is considering putting the interests of corporations over that of the anglers, paddlers, hunters, campers and hikers that love to recreate on the South Fork. It is incredibly important to me personally that the Forest Service protect our endangered species and their critical habitat as outlined under the original intentions of the Endangered Species Act and protect the outstanding water quality of this major tributary to the Wild and Scenic Salmon River. This river system is vitally important for native and endangered fish, outdoor recreation, and the economic vitality of the local communities that surround it. It concerns me that we are moving back to a time where we abused our public lands for resource extraction instead of sound management to protect our water resources and endangered species for future generations.

The south salmon is by far the best kayaking overnighter probably in the world. The experiences that come out of the south salmon are some of the richest possible. To take anything away from that river corridor would secure a

fine place in hell for anyone involved. .

Save the Salmon, preserve public lands!

The south fork salmon is a beautiful place worth protecting. Holding a gold mine in higher priority than our nations true natural resources would be wrong and shortsighted. The south fork salmon's health and longevity as well as the health of the fisheries downstream are worth so much more than a mining project to make the rich richer.

Please do not allow the stibnite mining project to continue.

Please do not go through w the mine. I had the chance to visit some of the salmon river water and it has had an everlasting impact on me. The mine would do detrimental damage to an already vulnerable ecosystem. And I would one day like to go back to fish maybe even with my kids, if I ever have them. Maybe it's a personal thing for me and possibly selfish but if I am one of many many folks who feel the same way it might just not be. Please consider this plea from a proud American.

Please cease operations of the Stibnite Gold Project. It is imperative that the river and salmon be protected.

Mining is absolutely unnecessary and downright selfish as it will poison the water and the species that inhabit it.

Please do the responsible thing and reject mining in the beautiful South Fork in order to let wildlife continue to flourish and people to enjoy it. Preserve and protect nature, stop destroying it for profit and greed!

As a resident of Idaho for close to 10 years, I have utilized this area many times for recreation. Idaho is special for it's close access to nature, and it's beauty is unmatched. The rivers of the South Fork Salmon watershed contain world class whitewater that are so important to international travelers, as well as locals like me. . Please protect this natural and special place by choosing the "No Action" alternative.

As an individual who lived for many years in Idaho Falls and Hailey, Idaho, I enjoyed the abundance of beauty and resources the state had to offer, especially the Salmon River region. I am extremely alarmed at the proposed project, the destructive scars of gold mining can be seen throughout the west, in the Sierras of California where I have family and where I currently live in Alaska. The results of large scale mining is environmental damage that takes decades to repair, if ever, especially to native fish species. Gold mining operates as a boom and bust operation, here when prices are high, gone when gold prices no longer make it viable. What's left for someone to clean up is environmental destruction and piles of junk. I am not necessarily opposed to mining, it is a necessary means for critical industry. However, while gold serves some limited industrial needs, the driving motivation for gold mining has always been profit above all else and this is why much scrutiny should be applied to how the benefits of the proposed project compare to the extreme, and potentially very long term risks that it would pose to sensitive fish and wildlife species, outdoor recreation opportunities, and loss of the pristine nature of the area to future generations. The project makes many claims about restoration of the extensive mining operations that have already taken place in the area. While this sounds good, it is imperative that these claims be scrutinized since the project's main stake will always be extracting more gold. They have little to no fundamental interest in restoration other than appeasing other parties so that they can achieve their main goal. History is overwhelmingly full of the examples of mining projects that make these sorts of grand claims, but when prices drop or the project becomes less economically viable for this and/or other reasons, the sites are more or less abandoned with years of environmental damage in their wake left for someone else to clean up.

I spend my summer weekends swimming, fishing and drinking (with a water filter) out of the East Fork of the South Fork of the Salmon River. I am raising my kids to appreciate nature in it's most natural form, by soaking in this river and it's magical and pure setting.

I am a concerned citizen and I am AGAINST the Stibnite gold project and all the terrible and irreversible effects it will have on the environment.

"As a concerned U.S. citizen and annual visitor to Idaho for its lovely rivers, I am asking you to please select Alternative 5, the No Action Alternative outlined in the Stibnite Gold Project's Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS). I support keeping the proposed site locations in their current undiminished state. I understand that projects involving an EIS can go forward even if significant impacts are identified.

However, I urge you to see the impacts identified here as being too important to absorb. Moving forward on the Stibnite Gold Project would deleteriously affect the project area and the region environmentally, socially, and economically. Thank you for considering my voice on this matter."

"I could write to you about the endangered fish or added risks of Dam failure, instead I'd like to invite you to just visit the South fork of the Salmon. I don't see how anyone who floats that magical river could wish destruction

upon it, and for what? Whatever money you make won't make much a difference a hundred years from now but that sacred place will still be gone from this earth. We have so few of these sacred places left.

Have you ever been to West Virginia? The mines are long gone but their scars are still there. Their people live in poverty and their creeks are stained orange and are lifeless from acid mine run off. Please do the right thing."

The rivers of the South Fork Salmon watershed contain extremely important fish habitat and inherently valuable wildlife that rely on this watershed. .

The only real win is to allow the natural environment to flourish, all else is a losing battle. Is your current dollar worth more than all future generations? What's that word that comes with man-made intervention...

maintenance? Good luck with that for more than 100 years. Keep the disruption and concrete away.

I hope you will reconsider allowing this gold mine to go through. Yes it would make vast sums of money for someone but it will damage an incredible ecosystem that is used and loved by many. The salmon and steelhead have enough issues to deal with please don't add another.

The South Fork of the Salmon is a true American treasure and should be treated as such.

First, I demand more time for public comment and input. This process is being rushed to silence the democratic of public comment and concern. Second, I support Alternative 5, the No Action Alternative outlined in the Stibnite Gold Project's Draft Environmental Impact Statement. I am an Idaho outdoorsmen and am greatly concerned about the health and protection of Idaho rivers. I am a concerned citizen and thus, a public land owner. And! Our local community use and treasure. .

I oppose the current DEIS plans to impact the South Fork of the Salmon River watershed. ., .

That this proposal would even be considered is unconscionable. How many more precious waterways are we willing to destroy in the name of money? How many times will the Forest Service pander to economic interest at the cost of ecological peril? This project trades sustainability for ruin, the joy and legacy of many for the fortune of few, life in its thriving beauty for money. What good is money without life? The effects of this project will be seen forever as an irreparable scar. You are stealing from the generations before and after you to sell a priceless, irreplaceable entity that cannot nor should ever be possessed. ENOUGH. We are better than this.

**I have lived in Salmon my entire early life and anyone who knows of the area speaks of its beauty, scenery, and serenity. Do we really want to take away the only attraction that keeps people coming back to what could otherwise become a ghost town? Whitewater rafting is a main source of sustenance for my little haven and I would hate to see my little town without a bustling summer. It would be a huge economic downfall in currency circulation and would ruin one of our last attractions to this beautiful place. Not to mention the pollution and repercussions to our ecosystems. ., .

The South Fork Salmon is a beautiful river and an unparalleled experience as a multi-day trip. It would be a shame if this resource is not protected for present and future generations.

Now more than ever we need to preserve and protect our natural resources and eco systems! Stop the destruction with HUGE long term consequences, just to serve greedy short sighted financial interests. ., .

I am extremely against the Midas Gold project being proposed. In addition to the following form letter that covers my concern for our way of life and our land and water quality, there are US government promises and treaties with the indigenous (native) Americans that go against allowing for the Midas proposal. I have not heard of mining projects that have NOT produced what ends up being an environmental disaster on the level of a superfund site. To allow for the Midas project to move forward would ignore the environmental protections needed for the Frank Church Wilderness, the Salmon River and its surrounding beauty.

I was lucky enough to do a multi day trip on the South Fork and it was incredible. Jeopardizing this opportunity for others is a disgrace. The rivers of the South Fork Salmon watershed contain world class whitewater that paddlers from across the country and the world travel to Idaho to visit. Listen to the people, not the money.

There isn't one single reason to allow a private-for-profit company to desecrate OUR public lands & water. Period.

We all know this is wrong, and the only folks who are pushing through this agenda are putting dollars before the livelihood of future generations. It has to stop.

My family and I have spent some of the best times of our lives on the Salmon river. It is a truly magical gift of a place that, once experienced, leaves a lasting affect and adoration. Do even think of all this river offers to aquatic life, wildlife, the overall ecosystem and to the people blessed enough to experience it being damaged or altered

by the Stibnite Gold Project is abhorrent.,

STOP PRIORITIZING MAKING MONEY FOR A FEW INDIVIDUALS WHILE SACRIFICING OUR NATURAL AREAS THAT ARE FOR EVERYONE. If it's not obvious, . Thank you.

I grew up fishing on the salmon and have a picture of myself next to the south fork sign every year as a way of measuring how much I grew each year. Don't ruin this.

I'm writing this letter to protest the Stibnit gold mine, it's a ridiculously brainless idea considering what has happened in the past. There are threatened fish such as salmon, Steele head, and bull trout that depend on the south fork of the salmon river, it is a massive revenue source due to tourism, and a vital resource to the surrounding community's of native people, and locals alike. Please keep the best interests of the public in mind, and Keep the Stibnit mine from reopening.

The South Fork Salmon River is finally healing from the scars of past mining activity, and the impacts of expanded mining activity represents an unacceptable risk to this watershed, none of the other Alternatives can adequately mitigate or offset these risks.

It is my opinion that the forest service and our country at large make a critical reassessment of what we value out of our public lands. The money that will potentially be generated by a gold mine will not be distributed to anyone but high level share holders. The South Fork is worth more than gold, and we need to stop viewing our increasingly limited public lands cravenly as purely resources meant for our benefit.

Keep Idaho rivers wild.

No amount of money can compensate the American people if our waterways and fish populations are damaged. No mine!

"We owe it to our children, and the many generations to follow to "leave no trace". Why should we risk the extinction of fish and other wildlife so one company can make billions of dollars?

The number of people who benefit from this proposed gold mine is minuscule compared to the number of people & animals who will be harmed by its irreparable damage. It's time to make the the right moral decisions and err on the side of caution and humanity. We can't claim ignorance and say we didn't know the damage was possible. We ALL know. "

It has been proven time and time again that outdoor recreation creates a more sustainable economy than resource extraction. The Salmon River is a renowned recreation destination. Its protection ensures economic security and environmental health for future generations.

renewed mining will not only be detrimental to the terrestrial ecosystem (E.g. loss of habitat, carbon destabilization) but also the aquatic ecosystem through the mass influx of sediment from erosion.

The rivers of the South Fork Salmon watershed contain world class whitewater that paddlers from across the country and the world, including myself, travel to Idaho to visit. The fishes of this watershed cannot tolerate the assessed impacts from the proposed actions. The South Fork Salmon River is finally healing from the scars of past mining activity, and the impacts of expanded mining activity represents an unacceptable risk to this watershed and all the organisms that live in and recreate within it. Don't let the poor decisions and bad faith of our government lead to poor rivers throughout our country.

I was born and raised in Idaho which makes me especially connected to our rivers and white water resources. . I am writing as a concerned citizen and stakeholder who utilizes these public lands in their current undiminished state,, .

The quality of the wilderness is unsurpassed in the Lower 48. I hope to show this place to my children, and them to theirs and wish it's water quality to be pristine in the future. Aside from being a paddler, I am a professional water resources engineer who focused on eco-hydraulics, ecosystem restoration, and fluvial geomorphology. The impacts of a mine on this river would be significant and irreparable. The habitat it provides for anadromous fish and bull trout is critically important. We as citizens rely on the Forest service to protect our wild places, please protect the South Fork of the Salmon River

The Forest Service is mandated to manage public lands in the public interest and without adverse impacts to either endangered species or waters of the US. The draft EIS plainly states that, save for Alternative 5, all of the alternatives presented would adversely affect federally listed endangered fish species, their habitat, and both the watershed's water quantity and quality. It is the Forest Service's duty to protect the outstanding water quality of this major tributary to the Wild and Scenic Salmon River, . We have not yet repaired the impacts from past mining

activity, we should not further threaten the waterways by re-adding mining activity.

The impact that this project will have on the watershed of the Salmon River makes following through with such a proposal inexcusable. Clean water is life, and the fact that this is a tributary to a wild and scenic river which provides habitat for endangered fish species means that it is not only environmentally unsound but also selfish and immoral for these companies to be lining their pockets by threatening these resources that are publicly owned by the American people. I am a concerned citizen and a steward of our public lands and I hope that you will honor the right for nature to exist in these places without such threats. Please keep this special waterway protected and do not allow this to move forward.

Mining will ruin this precious area. Keep it clean.

I am writing to express my concern about the Stibnite Mine Project. The Salmon River is the 'last wild river', with an unlimited potential to help salmon and steelhead populations rebound. I have been involved in restoration projects on the Yankee Fork of the Salmon River on and off for the last 10 years, and I have direct contact with the biologists who have been part of that project. Millions of dollars have been spent trying to restore a river that was dredged for gold. This river was turned into some very crummy fish habitat through dredging, and more money has been spent trying to fix sections of it than the amount of gold that was pulled from the river. Every fish that returns is a success, but it hardly is the same as historic populations in the Yankee Fork, and many many projects are having to be completed to try and fix what has been destroyed. We have been putting so much time, effort, and money into trying to restore our salmon and steelhead populations, it seems counter-productive to allow large mines into the Salmon River drainage. We know that these mines release toxic chemicals into the environment and the water. This has been seen in other places in Idaho, where mining has not been conducted extremely close to rivers. The Blackfoot River drainage in Southeastern Idaho and the Salt River drainage have both been negatively affected by selenium, which is released as a result of phosphate mining. The native cutthroat populations in these areas suffer, as well as other native and non-native fish species. While fish are most people's primary concern, other wildlife will be affected by these open pit mines as well. Deer and elk habitat will be affected, and their life patterns will also be disrupted. These mines will surely provide jobs to a few people, but do the benefits outweigh the costs? Why should we put more money into restoration in 20 years when the market is down and the mine is no longer profitable? Will our salmon and steelhead populations in the Columbia River Basin be able to takThank you for taking the time to read this letter and listen to the public's concerns.

Last year was my 15th summer guiding people from all walks of life down the Middle Fork of the Salmon River, and I am saddened to say that I saw one lonely salmon in August, spawned out and dying on the side of the river. An entire river system is named the 'Salmon' and on one of its forks, only a few can be seen each year coming back to spawn. Perhaps we should rename it the 'Salmon-less' River because unless Alternative 5 is chosen from the DEIS for the Stibnite Gold Project, more salmon will be threatened, and easily forced to extinction. As a career whitewater guide on the Middle fork and Main Salmon rivers, and someone who values the rivers and spectacular whitewater resources of Idaho, . . .

I am writing at this time as a concerned citizen and also as president of the Baltimore Canoe and Kayak Club of Baltimore Maryland. I would like to lend my support to Alternative 5 (No Action) as outlined in the Stibnite Gold Project's Draft EIS. I believe that mining operations (as proposed) would negatively, and very likely irreparably, damage the water quality of the Salmon River that is an important source of tourist 'draw' for the area. There are a significant number of members from our club that regularly book trips on the Salmon (and our club is not unique in this sense) - Our local interest in the Salmon River as a recreational tourist destination is not because there is any lack of quality whitewater streams and rivers in the east...instead the draw is the beauty of the Salmon area, the quality of the water experience that is available there, and the pristine nature of Salmon watershed itself. In addition, I have become aware that the Salmon watershed is a critical area for federally identified endangered fish species whose continued survival is dependent upon the maintaining a viable habitat and water quality. Mining of this type, and in this area, would put both in jeopardy. Therefore I urge the support of Alternative 5 for the protection of this vital watershed and all that it offers in its current natural and protected state.

" The rivers of the South Fork Salmon watershed contain precious and ever diminishing wild habitat and world class whitewater that paddlers and other outdoor enthusiasts from across the country and the world travel to Idaho to visit. The DEIS clearly states that all of the alternatives presented, apart from Alternative 5, would

adversely affect federally listed endangered fish species, their habitat, and the watershed's water quality and quantity, not to mention the impact on thousands of humans down stream. It is incredibly important to me that the Forest Service protect the outstanding water quality of this major tributary to the Wild and Scenic Salmon River, as this river system is vitally important for native and endangered fish, such as salmon and steelhead, outdoor recreation, and the economic vitality of the local communities that surround it. Moving forward with this project would not only adversely impact my personal enjoyment of this public resource, it would negatively impact all of the people of Idaho who rely on the tourism and economic impact of hundreds of thousands of visitors each year to our National Forests. The South Fork Salmon River is finally healing from the scars of past mining activity, and the impacts of expanded mining activity represents an unacceptable environmental risk to this watershed. If a decision to mine is reached, we will permanently lose this valuable wild and natural resource.

"As a whitewater kayaker and wilderness lover from nearby Montana, I am asking you to preserve one of the best and most pristine river systems in the lower 48 by choosing Alternative 5, the No Action Alternative for the Stibnite Gold Project's Draft Environmental Impact Statement. I am asking this as a concerned public landowner who has run the 'wilderness' section of the SF Salmon four times and also run the EF and SF Salmon. The quality of these rivers is unmatched in the US, and I want to make sure this experience will be available for future generations. Historically, the environmental record on metal mines in the western US is abysmal--I say this as a former resident of Butte, Montana.

Typically, mines adversely affect the surrounding streams and the companies that make the profits ultimately abandon them and leave the clean-up to the taxpayers. And, usually the water cannot be cleaned up at any cost. Do you want to take that chance with the SF Salmon? All so some corporation can make a profit? And on gold, which has little use other than as a filling of a rich person's vault? The really rare commodity here is the wild character of the SF Salmon River. The DEIS clearly states the other alternatives, apart from Alternative 5, would adversely affect federally listed endangered fish species, their habitat, and the watershed's water quality and quantity.

All of this and it is our duty as stewards of the land to protect the waters for salmon (a keystone species) along with the other animals that would be impacted. Water is life!

"We need to protect the natural spaces we have left- our planet is on a slippery slope and It is up to us to make a difference.

" In an effort to make this more personal, my family has owned property in the Secesh Meadow for over 50 years. The Secesh River, is a tributary of the South Fork of the Salmon, and in my lifetime I've watched native Salmon return to this stream. Albeit in numbers not near what the histories tell us. Their contribution to the ecosystem is well documented. Keystone species is what they are called for those of us lacking. This oasis is indescribable in it's beauty... Mainly because it's been allowed to thrive and had been kept free of humanity's unbridled willingness to soil everything we typically touch.

We're finally seeing the benefits of conservation by maintaining a healthy eco system free of mines, deforestation, and a healthy respect for mother nature. I plead to all who will listen. This mine is not necessary to the communities it will effect, and like history tells us, they will reap the land of what they can and run. please preserve this ancient wonderland for all those who come after us!! "

Someday I hope to visit and adventure though the area and would like to have the same pristine experience as those do now!

We can't afford to loose this beautiful place with all of its ecological balance. Please let's start preserving our planet.

This is an incredible resource that I hope will remain intact for future generations! .

I can not even believe this is being considered!

I've been to the Stibnite mine site many times in recent years and the rehabilitation effort needs to continue, to repair the past disastrous mining mess. The restoration effort is no where near complete and the new Midas Gold exploration and preliminary operations has only made the environmental damage worse. I don't believe anything Midas Gold says about the capacity or willingness to do short-term or long-term environmental mitigation from mining. The Forest Service must put water and fish resources first, ahead of mining scams for unneeded gold. The rivers of the South Fork Salmon watershed contain world class whitewater of which there is less of with more

and more people using it. It is very important that the water quality of this major tributary to the Wild and Scenic Salmon River, be maintained. The South Fork Salmon River and watershed should be protected from the impacts of expanded mining activity .

As a river guide who values the rivers and spectacular whitewater resources of Idaho, . I guide on the headwaters of the Snake River. These beautiful Wild and Scenic Rivers are not only valued for their beauty and recreation (South Fork Salmon watershed contains world class whitewater), but also education and inspiration. .

It is truly a gem, on par with its neighboring forks, the Middle and Main Salmon. Please keep this section of river pristine and untrammelled for generations to come.