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Organization:

Title:

Comments:

I am writing to voice my strong opposition to the proposed Stibnite Mine at the headwaters of the South fork Salmon. This proposed cyanide vat leach open-pit mine would likely lead to arsenic leaching into the most important remaining habitat for summer Chinook salmon in the Columbia River basin. We know Midas does NOT have the best track record on protecting water quality and fisheries. In addition to the direct negative effects of burying streams under tailings or waste rock piles, heavy metals mobilized from mining activities can enter surface or groundwater and contaminate water supplies, killing or substantially impairing fisheries far downstream. While the project is being promoted as a restoration project with a mining component, the current plan is really a large-scale industrial mining project with some improved reclamation - and some restoration components - on the margins. The problem with calling this a restoration project is that over half of this disturbance would be in pristine areas. The first rule of responsible development is to avoid sensitive areas, then minimize impacts, and finally to mitigate remaining issues. The current mine plan skips much of that first step and converts 1,991 acres into an industrial site with open pits, mills, tailings and waste rock facilities (for size comparison, the entire lift-accessible terrain on McCall's Brundage Mountain is 1,920 acres). Again, I implore those of you who are voting on this issue to vote NO to this mine. Thank you for your consideration.