

NO to Midas Gold Proposal



I often find myself exclaiming, *"We are so lucky to live in Idaho. There is no where else on the planet I'd rather live."* Traveling throughout our country and across the globe can be highly rewarding but coming back home to Idaho is usually the best part of any journey.

This is our home. It is wild and it is clean. It should not be harvested or pillaged for short term gains with long term damages. We've made all these same mistakes before. We've made them right in the same location as this proposal. Repeating these mistakes now would tarnish our legacies and haunt us all forever. It would put us all in the challenging position of having to answer some tough questions; *"What were we thinking at the time?"*, *"What was our true motivation?...(\$?)"*, *"What deception did we fall for?"* and *"What were our actions?"*

What remains a scar from the old Stibnite days is unfortunate but also a reminder as to why we should not allow any further devastation to this precious and fragile area.

- Can this proposed project *possibly* leave this land in better condition then it is right now? With the amount of proposed alteration to the land, this seems improbable.
- Is there high risk and high potential to compromise the water quality of the SF Salmon basin and have a negative impact on fish, birds, and other wildlife? What does history suggest?
- Will it crush the spirits of local boaters, hikers, hunters, skiers, and other enthusiasts that simply want to enjoy our wilderness and share it with generations to come?
- Will local sentiments resemble a sense of betrayal? Of being sold out? Cheated? How much are we all willing to gamble here?

We have so few undamaged rivers left in our country. Water is essential to our future. Is gold? Is silver? Pure, natural, free flowing rivers are perhaps the only real gold on this planet. Let's protect our water. We don't have a lot of it left. Let's protect our backyard. We don't need a company (*foreign or domestic*) destroying it. Let's watch for, and call out, misleading propaganda.

This is a place we all spend a lot of time and care deeply for. I very much appreciate the importance of solid employment and prosperous futures. I want jobs for Idahoans too. I do wish the employees of Midas Gold the very best no matter what the outcome of this proposal. I also hope that regardless of disagreements in land management philosophies that we can all continue to treat each other with the utmost respect and dignity.

~Nate Ostis
McCall, Idaho

Additional note: I found both of **John Rygh's** public comments to bring tremendous depth to this conversation. No doubt his years of service as the Payette National Forest's geologist guided his comments and grounded them in reality.



I'm happy to take any decision-makers on this matter down the SF Salmon river so you can truly experience the magic. Before determining the fate of the South Fork, please get as intimate as possible with this landscape. It's truly spectacular and irreplaceable.

