

From: [George and Frances Alderson](#)
To: [FS-comments-intermtn-payette](#)
Subject: Stibnite Gold project - protect water quality
Date: Friday, June 16, 2017 9:10:24 AM

To the Forest Service:

Please consider this message as our comment on the Midas Gold Stibnite Gold project in the headwaters of the East Fork of the South Fork Salmon River. Although we live far from the area, I (George) am a native of Washington State and I had a memorable trip on the Salmon River many years ago. The wildness of the river and its surroundings in the national forests have stayed with me for 40 years.

In our travels in the West, we have seen a number of mining sites where the mining company walked away without restoring the site. That should not be allowed to happen here.

Please use the Forest Service's surface management authority to hold the mining company to strict conditions. One should be to scale back the mining effort and commit to backfilling pits instead of turning them into pit lakes.

Midas Gold should not be allowed to bury more than a mile of spawning habitat under hundreds of feet of mining waste and tailings. Please require alternative ways of storing tailings and waste rock so that spawning habitat is protected.

Impose a strict requirement to prevent water contamination from heavy metals and acid mine drainage. If there is a risk of contaminating the South Fork headwaters, the project should not proceed.

The Forest Service should prepare for the eventuality that Midas Gold might go bankrupt and walk away without restoration of the site. Look at ways to restore the site independent of mining activities, in the event Midas is unable to restore the site in a timely manner.

Thank you for considering our comments.

Mr. George and Frances Alderson

