

From: Sherry Gordon
To: [FS-comments-intermtn-payette](#)
Subject: Stibnite Gold EIS Scoping Comment
Date: Thursday, July 20, 2017 10:34:40 AM

In my earlier comments, I didn't address myself to the issue of how the closure of the East Fork road to Stibnite would affect the community of Yellow Pine - which I do now...

I appreciate Midas employees' consideration of the community of Yellow Pine in -not- disruptively running ore trucks through town as had always been the case before; that the choice of the Burnt Log road route greatly mitigates traffic effects on rivers; and that there is a need to close the East Fork road, as it is, through what will be actual mining works at Stibnite. I can also see very well that Midas would rather not spend money on yet another route since 2 are already needed - one for the ore traffic and one for the power line. But -is- the Horse Heaven power line route actually -needed- as an improved jeep road? - can Idaho Power maintain the lines on what is already there, or only minimally improved? ...So that a route from somewhere near Sugar Creek on the East Fork road could be made -around- the Stibnite Gold project to meet up with the Monumental road?

My concerns conjoin with those of other members of the Yellow Pine community: Priority 1) That a lack of near-to-Yellow Pine access to the further backcountry beyond Stibnite will negatively affect already struggling businesses in the community - which keep the town viable - which supports property values in the area - which in turn keep the town viable by making it possible for the natural egress and ingress of area-valuing homeowners to take place. 2) That those of us who are already here and are used to having access to the backcountry area (and who may have purchased property with that as a reason) would have to drive an awful long way around to get there for the next 20+ years (and many of us would -not- be using a steep jeep road to take ourselves and our visitors to Monumental and beyond). And 3) that those in Yellow Pine who might wish to work in some capacity at the mine (and there are at least a few who have skills and experience that would likely qualify them for this) would have to likewise drive a long way around to get there.

Since part of the analysis by the FS has to do with socioeconomic effects on nearby communities, I ask that you encourage Midas to reconsider the provision of a Yellow Pine-based route to Monumental, as has been in place for the past century. I very much hope that a feasible route can be found on one side or the other of the Glory Hole...

Thank you--
Sherry Abstein Gordon

