Request for Extension of comment period to the full 120 days

 Hello, my name is Gina and I am a Registered Nurse and outdoor enthusiast. Being outdoors is what makes me feel whole. As a whitewater kayaker I take serious threats to proposed projects such as Midas. I feel connected to the South Fork Salmon for its beauty and wildness, its a place of refuge and recreation that everyone deserves to enjoy. I want to fight to protect this beautiful river and all its surroundings, however I feel that more time is needed to fully feel and read all the comments fighting to help keep this place alive. I have currently been battling breast cancer as well as working in an Emergency Department during COVID which has been all consuming physically and mentally. Having more time to review this is crucial in times such as these. DEIS present an enormous amount of information, thousands of pages of dense information that needs to be reviewed in a short time frame. As we have all felt the impact of 2020 with wildfires, hurricanes, an unbelievable and important election, COVID, and personally myself cancer...we know this has been a very stressful year. Currently all these circumstances lead to people having limited bandwith due to personal obligations to engage in political processes...we need more time.

 There has been Evidence that Midas has been pressuring members of U.S. House of Representatives and other federal agencies and the USFS to approve this project in an expedited manner. Extended comment period is needed as evidence USFS is ensuring the legal process of public input has been accounted for. There is also a lack of accessibility to the public, as the Forest Service has not made printed copies available to the public, excluding those without reliable internet services.

 First and foremost, with the continuing increase in COVID-19 cases in Valley County and

Idaho and the general circumstances and repercussions of COVID nationwide, it is now even

more imperative that the Forest Service grant this request for an extension of the comment

period to 120 total days. Commenting on a proposed project is the most significant way that the

public can communicate with the agency regarding the potential environmental and community

impacts and provide vital information so that the agency can make an informed decision. The

importance of public comment to the integrity of the NEPA process and agency decision-

making cannot be overstated, and in these unprecedented times, it is crucial to ensure that the

public's opportunity to engage in the NEPA process is ensured. Further, some residents of rural

Idaho who would be impacted by this project have little or no internet access and as the DEIS is

only available online and many libraries and other places of internet access are closed due to

COVID, these community members need more time to access and review the document.

 There is also evidence that Midas Gold Corp. and its subsidiary Midas Gold Idaho, Inc. have been pressuring members of the U.S. House of Representatives, other involved federal agencies, state

lawmakers, and the USFS to approve this project in an expedited manner. Extending the

comment period to 120 days will reassure the public that the USFS values the public's input, and

is operating for OUR public lands, not for the benefits of special interests.

Thank you for taking the time to read and please stay true and fight for the safety of our public health and land. Its our future and we must protect it!

Gina