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Organization:

Title:

Comments: Dear Payette Forest Supervisor Keith Lannom and staff,

As an avid paddler and conservationist, I am concerned about the mining plan for the East Fork of the Salmon River.

The proposed plan will fill surrounding valleys with mine waste rock and tailings. The amount of disturbance and environmental risks can be greatly reduced if the mining company scales back its mining effort and commits to backfilling its pits instead of turning them into pit lakes.

Protecting spawning habitat for threatened and endangered fish is critically important. While Midas Gold has promised to restore fish passage to headwater streams, the current project proposes burying over a mile of spawning habitat under hundreds of feet of mining waste and tailings. The Forest Service needs to examine alternative ways of storing tailings and waste rock so that spawning habitat is protected.

The proposed project will require undoing over \$13 million of taxpayer-funded restoration work. If the site is eventually restored as envisioned by Midas Gold, the Forest Service needs to describe how these investments will be protected in the future and not simply undone by the next mining company.

Thank you for your time.

Molly Carney