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Comments: I am writing today to urge you to put protection of the Salmon River watershed at the forefront of the Stibnite Gold mining plan review. The impact on the river and surrounding valleys looks to be huge, and could be reduced with an appropriate plan. Please consider reducing the scale of the project and requiring that Midas Gold backfills pits to minimize impacts.

I also urge you to protect fish spawning habitat. Restored spawning sites are never as good as the original site, and that needs to be taken into consideration. Can the plan move forward without damaging critical spawning habitat? \$13 million worth of public tax dollars have already gone towards restoration in that area. The proposed mining will undo the work of Idaho taxpayers. Even if they restore it again, our hard work will be undermined. Will more tax dollars be spent just to be undone by private businesses?

Finally, mining is one of the most polluting industries, with the potential to contaminate wildlife habitat and drinking water in perpetuity. What precautions will be set to prevent that kind of tragedy to one of our state treasures?

Please consider the risks of this project, and create a plan that will protect the public resources of the Salmon River watershed. Thank you for your consideration.