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Comments: I am very concerned about the long term impacts of the Midas Gold Stibnite proposal on the Salmon River watershed. My family enjoys camping along the South Fork and Main Salmon, and we are aware of the tremendous economic benefits to our region from the fishing, rafting and outdoor recreation industries that rely on a clean Salmon River. The value of salmon returning to these rivers in perpetuity is much greater than short term profits for Midas Gold or a successor company. Since the history of mining in our region is full of companies leaving toxic waste disasters in their wake, I think it is appropriate to be skeptical of the Midas plan and to require the company to do all it can to protect the watershed.

One specific concern is heavy metals and acid mine drainage polluting the waterways either through a single catastrophic event or by slowly filtering into the rivers over decades. Midas Gold should reduce the amount of disturbance to the toxic waste piles from previous mining operations. The company should be required to increase watershed protection and restoration to try to offset the very likely possibility of heavy metals and acids filtering downstream as the waste piles are disturbed. And with millions and millions of public dollars already spent on cleaning up the site as well as ongoing efforts to restore endangered salmon runs, we need guarantees that Midas Gold's planned restorations will not only be completed but will not be swept aside by the next mining company that sees an opportunity to make a quick profit.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.