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First name: Anna
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Organization:
Title:
Comments: Hello,

My family and I are residents of Boise, Idaho. We are also fortunate enough to have access to our family cabin at Warm Lake, Idaho. The cabin has been in our family for many years. The area around Warm Lake is a beautiful, peaceful place for us and the public to enjoy and spend special time with our family and friends.

We were very upset to hear about the Midas Gold Stibnite Mine Project. Not only was it a surprise, in that there was little communication provided to the public, but there was also little opportunity to voice our concerns about the environmental impact of such a project. The EPA has already spent millions of dollars restoring the area from previous mining and reducing the amount of pollutants (arsenic and mercury) being released into the environment. I do not know all the specifics, but I do know that this wonderful area will be severely damaged again by allowing the Mine Project to operate for 20 years. WE ARE IN STRONG OPPOSITION TO THIS PROJECT. It would be a tragedy to ruin the scenery of this area and cause pollution of our water streams and ground water.

Putting huge load bearing trucks on Warm Lake highway (approximately 130 trips per day or 11 per hour) will have a significant negative effect on the safety of travelers on Warm Lake Highway. Not only will it cause an inconvenience to recreationalists, but it will be a hazard to motorists. It is a windy, steeply sloped road. If they plan to use this highway as they discussed, there should be major improvements made to this road. Some suggestions would be more slow vehicle turnouts, passing lanes, widening the road, etc. Huge trucks (1 every 5 minutes) will cause congestion on the road and put regular passenger vehicles at risk. We are very concerned about this issue.

Additionally, the hours of operation are all hours of daylight Monday through Friday; there is essentially no way to avoid the construction/trucks. We also would ask that workers utilize transportation provided by the company (e.g. buses or vans) to reduce the vehicle trips on Warm Lake highway. PLEASE, if this project is moving forward, we ask that the hours be significantly reduced for the following reasons:

1. Reduce the environmental impact on air quality and noise pollution.

2. Provide an opportunity for the public to travel (during off-hours yet in the daylight) without the trucks on the road to increase safety and ease of traveling on the shared road.

Lastly, we implore the Forest Service and governmental agencies of Idaho (or Idaho DEQ) mandate extensive supervision and monitoring of mining impacts on the environment. It is imperative that there is strict monitoring of air, water (both ground and surface) and restoration of trees and topography. I am not well-versed in this area, but we beg you to provide the most stringent of oversight to ensure this beautiful piece of Idaho is not destroyed for no reason at all, other than for a foreign company to profit from the natural resources in Idaho.

Thank you for considering these comments.