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Organization:

Title:

Comments: I would like to request that the comment period for the Midas Gold Mine proposal be extended. I feel a 75 day comment period has not given many of us the time we have needed to thoroughly read the comprehensive report, and then comment appropriately to all.

I have lived in McCall since 1975 and been fortunate enough to have worked for the Forest Service in Zena Creek in 1978, where we traveled all over the country which is in question of being impacted by the Midas Gold Mine proposal. Back in those days, we could watch the salmon coming back up the river in hoardes[hellip]..that has not been the case in many years, but there has been an attempt to bring them back. This Midas Gold proposal will just reverse what little progress has been made. To expect arsenic, mercury and methyl mercury to not impact the waters downstream of the mine and to not impact the life of fish and their food chain is alarming. According to Alternative 2 (Midas Gold[rsquo]s proposal) of the DEIS, this project would destroy 20.8% of chinook salmon critical habitat and 70% of bull trout critical habitat in the analysis area. These are unacceptable losses for these already endangered fish and I urge you to protect them.

I have also been a commercial guide on the Middle Fork of the Salmon and the Main Salmon since 1989, rafting the South Fork of the Salmon multiple times throughout my career. To float through that pristine corridor, enjoy the clean waters surrounding you, and the abundant wildlife and river life all around is what everyone should expect for generations to come. After 20 years of heavy traffic and heavy mining in the Stibnite area, this corridor will be greatly threatened and changed.

This obviously is not the first time foreign mining companies have attempted to come into pristine areas and explore and mine gold. 2 mining companies (1 of them from Canada[hellip]hmmm) were attempting to open a mine outside Yellowstone National Park in the Paradise Valley and thankfully was shut down in 2018. We are similar with Stibnite mine in close proximity to Wilderness. <https://www.sierraclub.org/sierra/montana-s-paradise-valley-more-valuable-gold-yellowstone-mining-ban>

As an extremely concerned citizen, I ask that the Forest Service please do a supplemental EIS to this DEIS, which does not omit data, which provides adequate time for review, and which is accessible and coherent to the public. I would also like to request you work on a reasonable mining alternative that does not degrade the environment at such a profound level, one that will not result in unacceptable habitat loss for multiple critically endangered fish species and ultimate loss of those species.