Data Submitted (UTC 11): 6/19/2017 6:00:00 AM
First name: Matt
Last name: Ward
Organization: The Lilypad, LLC
Title: Director
Comments: I am writing to you as a concerned Idaho outdoorsman. I am concerned about the plans for the Stibnite Gold project.

Given that previous mining in the area has had terrible outcomes including toxic pollution that continues to contaminate the Salmon River system to this day, The Forest Service should take much more drastic measure to protect our public lands and water.

It seems to me that the best course of action would be to continue the millions of dollars worth of tax payer funded restoration of the are, and never mine there again. I believe that the Forest Service should establish a series of pass/fail litmus tests for this project. If the project cannot unequivocally meet all of the required benchmarks it should be declined outright. Here are some of the things that I believe that the Forest Service should require of itself and Midas Gold:

-Spawning habitats for threatened and endangered fish must be protected. Burying thousands and thousands of square feet of spawning beds in mine tailings is NOT acceptable.

-Water contamination from acids, chemicals, and heavy metals must be very carefully avoided. Contamination MUST be constantly monitored, measured, and publicly reported by a third party capable of providing independent accountability to the project and information to the public. If the project cannot be designed in such a way that water contamination is not a risk, the project should not proceed.

-Steps should be taken to ensure that Midas will not fail to meet its restoration promises. The Forest Service should also have a backup plan to restore the site independently. The Forest Service must have contingencies in place. Something as simple as a sharp drop in the market price of gold could grind the project to a sudden standstill.

Thank you for your stewardship of our public lands and most precious resources.