

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 8/1/2016 5:03:11 PM

First name: Chris

Last name: Niebrand

Organization:

Title:

Comments: As a property owner in Yellow Pine, I have, until recently, been supportive of exploratory endeavors, e.g. Midas Gold's work and other companies who "promise" to protect our pristine waters, fish and wildlife habitat, and unique Idaho beauty. However, recent activities in and around the Yellow Pine area have caused me to rethink my position. The closing of Sugar Creek to many of us, especially handicapped veterans who can only access this beautiful ride by ATV, is tragic. The damage incurred at the Gravel Pit in Yellow Pine, which has, literally, scarred a mountain in town and caused residents discomfort in listening to the dozing and falling of trees is also a problem. These events have certainly impacted any support for the Morgan Ridge Exploratory Drilling Project. What impact will it actually have? More road closures? Less access to those who enjoy this area? Hunting and/or fishing opportunities? I have friends and family who are employed by the Forest Service, and they are shaking their heads at what they are observing. Idaho is one of those few states whose beauty can still be appreciated by "common folks" and not just the elite or corporations whose sole goal is to make money. Thanks for the opportunity to express my perspective.