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First name: Janet
Last name: Kellam
Organization:
Title:
Comments: Dear USFS:

The Midas Gold proposal to re-open pit mines near Yellow Pine is completely inappropriate and should not be allowed. This area is at the headwaters of a unique watershed that has clean water, critical fish habitat for valuable, threatened species such as Salmon and Bull Trout. The waters of the East Fork of the South Fork of the Salmon River flow into the Salmon River, a Wild and Scenic River. This entire region not only provides spectacular beauty and wildness, but hosts an important recreation industry for the state of Idaho that is sustainable only if the environment is not damaged.

The bust-boom, destructive nature of this mine proposal only provides short term gains, and even that is questionable. Most gains would go to an out of country company. The long term losses will be substantial. We only have to examine all the other mine sites that have been allowed historically and at the present in the Salmon River region and on it's tributaries. For example: we've inherited a Super Fund Cleanup site with arsenic and mercury, we've been faced with compromised water quality in a number of areas from sediments and chemicals. The mining process itself is very destructive as well as the transport of mining chemicals, fuels and toxins. Spills and accidents are part of the business. We have experienced damaged salmon runs and impacts to other species both aquatic and terrestrial.

There is extensive evidence all this mining activity damages and threatens our water quality and the surrounding environment. Mining projects in the Salmon River Watershed that have been touted as using state of the art techniques and materials have consistently failed with leaks, blowouts, and spills. We have suffered the impacts; taxpayer money has been used to pay for cleanup and out of country businesses have taken the profits and left our communities with a damaged environment and negative impacts on our local industries and homelands.

The land and water is our legacy and our future here in Idaho, please don't let that be compromised and destroyed.

Sincerely,

Janet Kellam