Data Submitted (UTC 11): 7/9/2017 6:00:00 AM
First name: Laurie
Last name: Kuntz
Organization:
Title:
Comments: Canadian-based Midas Gold has no business entering Idaho to reopen pit mines near the remote community of Yellow Pine at the headwaters of the East Fork of the South Fork of the Salmon River. This river basin is prized for fishing, hunting, paddling and beauty. I strongly oppose this operation.

Midas Gold is proposing a strip mine in a huge ecologically valuable area (total project area of 29,827 acres), including 2,000 acres of pits, facilities, stockpiles, roads and other other associated infrastructure, which will impact wildlife by destroying habitat.

The area, which has been under exploration off and on from about 1900 through the 1990s, was declared a Superfund site in the late 1990s. The Environmental Protection Agency spent $13 billion to reclaim the site and stem the release of arsenic and mercury.

The company is also proposing to process all gold and silver on site, creating an opportunity for further environmental contamination. The project is proposed to last anywhere from 15 to 20 years.

I oppose any action that threatens clean water and fisheries habitat, especially habitat for endangered species like salmon and bull trout. I feel that Idahoans cannot afford to fund another toxic cleanup for a private company.

I care about clean water in this prized watershed and have serious concerns about the potential impacts to endangered salmon habitat and recreation in the area.