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Organization:
Title:
Comments: Dear Us Forest Service

Dear U.S. Forest Service officials:

I'm an outdoor enthusiast and realtor in McCall who cares deeply about the South Fork of the Salmon River basin, which is threatened by a new mine proposal.

As you know, Canada-based Midas Gold has proposed 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, a river basin prized for fishing, hunting, natural beauty and paddling.

Midas is proposing a strip mine with three pits and a total project area of 29,827 acres, including 2,000 acres of pits, facilities, stockpiles, roads and other associated infrastructure. This is a direct threat to the river and its recreational value.

What's more, the Stibnite area, which has been under exploration off and on from about 1900 through the 1990s, is already listed as a Superfund site. The Environmental Protection Agency spent $13 billion to reclaim the site and stem the release of arsenic and mercury. The East Fork of the South Fork of the Salmon River today is a river on the mend.

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 or more and create long-term impacts to one of Idaho's most important recreational river basins. Further more these impacts on kayakers, rafters and of course fish are hardly addressed in this plan.

Besides these environment issues the prospect of a boom and bust mining project is not fully reviewed in this plan. 500 workers working 2 weeks on and 2 weeks off does not mean they will all be buying homes. Most will come from out of the area and leave during the time off as in other mining town, IE look at Elko NV.

Further more the type of workers that can show up for these boom and bust jobs are a rough and ready group and I have not objection to that but they dont usually become members of the community for any length of time. Do you want this boom of people and then have them leave when the mine is gone, that happens to our area

then? No one has that answer.

I oppose any action that threatens this amazing recreational resource including water quality, fisheries habitat and recreational access to popular boating segments on the East Fork of the South Fork of the Salmon and South Fork of the Salmon rivers. Further, taxpayers cannot afford to fund another toxic cleanup for a private company.