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Organization:

Title:

Comments: Ladies/Gentlemen

Please accept the following comments in regard to the Stibnite Gold Plan of Operations EIS #50516.

I am opposed to Midas Gold's plan to reopen pit mines on the upper drainage of the East Fork of the South Fork of the Salmon River.

A big question is this: do American taxpayers get to bail out another mining company if they cut and run? That's been the history of mining companies in the Stibnite area in the past. American taxpayers have already spent \$13 billion to clean up toxic chemicals spilling into the East Fork of the South Fork of the Salmon River thanks to previous mining activity.

Will Midas be any different? They make a lot promises, of course, but we can never really be sure that they will be able to ameliorate all eventualities - or follow through on promises given fluctuating gold and mineral prices.

The problem is that by processing all gold and silver on site they are risking a future environmental disaster. The East Fork of the South Fork of the Salmon is still recovering from past mining practices. Its natural and recreational values are too valuable to risk more damage, and, therefore, I stand in opposition to Midas proposal.

Sincerely,

Ron Watters