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First name: Scott Last name: Keithley Organization:

Title:

Comments: I want to comment on the Midas Gold project. I am in favor of allowing Midas to extract and process ore on the Stibnite site with some concerns. Foremost I absolutely am against allowing a new road to be built to access the site. I have been spending time in the proposed new road area for many years backpacking, car camping trail riding( atv and motorcycle) fishing and just getting out in the wild for 30+ years. This is one of the nicest places that has reasonably good access on the whole forest. The watershed is near pristine and you are right on the edge of the Frank Church Wilderness for many miles. We are lucky to have access to such a great spot that feels so remote. I just was up there 1 week ago and after spending thousands of days out recreating in the Payette and Boise forests I saw my first wolverine in the wild. While fishing a small lake(Chilcoot) one came up to the outlet stream and stood up and looked at me and went about foraging along the lakeshore while I watched it for 10 minutes. This doesn't happen just anywhere. I heard one snarl while camped at Trapper creek some years back which is only a mile away. This is a incredible place and it would be completely spoiled if a major access road was put through it. I believe that using the existing road system makes the most sense. This road system has been used for the mining in the area for many years and as far as I know no major incident has happened. If the operation is too big for that road then it should be downsized. There is much technology out there to make things safe for traveling along a sensitive road area and if necessary use it. If things can't be done safely along that roadway with improvements or safety measures then we shouldn't allow the process because just moving the road higher up near the wilderness boundry is not going to make it better. I'm sure Midas Gold can transport the things they need along the existing road system if they take proper precautions. The salmon are still in the Southfork even though that area has been mined for many years. Pull out some dams and watch how many come back if given a fighting chance. We all want our rivers to be clean and I have a cabin on the South Fork at Trails End Subdivision so that is very important to me. I believe if the mining is done right and safety of the water quality is the highest priority, that ore can be extracted and processed at the Stibnite location with the current road system in way that will benefit our communities and country with jobs and the raw materials we need to prosper.