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First name: Joshua
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Organization:
Title:
Comments: To Whom It May Concern,

This letter regards the public comment period for the Stibnite Gold Project proposed by Midas Gold Mining Company. I really enjoy the area around the Stibnite area for recreation. The edge of the Frank Church comes right to the area and it is a great area for an important tributary of the Salmon River. There is an awesome amount of wildlife in the greater ecosystem and I have concerns about the Midas Gold proposal.

They continually claim that they will be fixing was broken by previous mining at the site but the overarching problem with this logic is that they will be in the area for the better part of 25 years. I do not see this as a fixing the landscape operation, in addition the necessity of huge machinery moving through the area and in the area are very unnatural and I am concerned about noise. This will also undoubtedly have an effect on wildlife and will force them to alter their historic patterns of life. It is easy to see that the sales pitch for this project pitches the restoration while planning to completely change the area for such a long duration is completely false advertising. My concerns are as follows:

* Concerned about noise levels that will filter out much further than the boundaries of the mine area proper

* Concerned about the truck traffic levels and how this alters wild animals

* Concerned about why we need to punch a road through pristine backcountry habitats

* Concerned for the East Fork South Fork Salmon watershed with increased levels of disturbance.

* What happens in the event of a wildfire devastation of the facilities once built?

* What happens if a fire or other catastrophic event occurs that effects the environment by leaking or distributing poisonous elements into the River or ground? How will this be rectified?

* How is all of the waste of mining going to be stored, distributed, and put back into the tailings?

* What about all of the people in the area? This is national forest and a lot is classified roadless right by the area. This provides an untouched, untrammeled environment for recreation such as hiking, hunting and getting away from the cities. With 1000 people around what about restricting workers from leaving the premises so as to not allow the immediate area to get overrun.

* What about gun discharge from workers? What prevents them from leaving the mining compounds and commencing target practice on neighboring national forest land? I am concerned it may start to look like the desert south of Boise.

* What about the strong history of mining operations of not upholding their end of the bargain? Ie: CEO leaves, the company hits financial trouble, the company has regulatory trouble with its finances, the company underestimates costs, there is a costly accident or natural disaster, etc.?

* At what point is enough mining in one spot enough?

* Do we have concerns about a Canadian company taking advantage of our mining laws created back in the 1800's? Is this even legal for a foreign company to use US land for profit?

* Even if Midas Gold has to pay a huge deposit to cover if there are issues with how they leave the land, how can we as Public Landowners be sure that this money will be there when we need it to restore the site yet again from another mining company with unfilled promises?

* Given the volatile nature of our Government, how are we guaranteed that the money won't be pilfered from Lawmakers?

I really love this area of Idaho and spend a lot of time backpacking here. It is very wild and not that frequently visited because it's off the beaten path and not that popular. If Midas Gold is allowed to trammel this land once again, doesn't this go against one of our nation's most significant assets and most significant accomplishments, that being the notion of Public Land owned by the Taxpayers?

Please consider my concerns when analyzing this plan. I am 30 years old right now and if this plan is approved I will be 55 years old and on the downward trend of what my body will allow me to do in the mountains. It is extremely saddening to think that the disturbance of this unnatural activity will last throughout the prime of my life.

I appreciate your time in reading this letter.

Best Regards,

Josh Miller