Data Submitted (UTC 11): 7/20/2017 6:00:00 AM
First name: Scott
Last name: Laey
Organization:
Title:
Comments: It is my hope that the Forest Service and Midas Gold take steps to reduce the overall size of disturbance and increase the amount of watershed restoration. If the environmental impact statement shows a risk of contamination to water quality and the South Fork Salmon River drainage, the project should not proceed.

My family and I use the East Fork, South Fork and main salmon river for kayaking and camping. While there is value to the minerals underground I feel that the studies will show the environmental disturbance of waste rock/tailings, destruction of spawning habitats, and overall environmental impact does not outweigh the priceless gem we have in these rivers and habitats.

The Forest Service should take extreme care to prevent water contamination from heavy metals and acid mine drainage. Previous mining projects in this area devastated fisheries with polluted water. The project should be designed in such a way that mining will not create permanent sources of pollution needing treatment in perpetuity. If there is a risk of contaminating the South Fork headwaters, the project should not proceed.

Restoring the site is important. However, many mining companies have an unfortunate history of backing out of commitments, suspending operations or abandoning sites. The Forest Service should look at ways to restore the site independent of mining activities if Midas Gold is unable to restore the site in a timely manner.

The proposed project will require undoing over $13 million of taxpayer-funded restoration work. If the site is eventually restored as envisioned by Midas Gold, the Forest Service needs to describe how these investments will be protected in the future and not simply undone by the next mining company.