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Midas Gold's proposed Stibnite Gold project ignores the environmental impact the project would have on the greater South Fork of the Salmon River ecosystem.
The plan ignores the effects of a 24/7 operation over 12 to 15 years, the damage to wildlife habitat, wildlife corridors, the forest, and the watershed. The impact of watershed destruction will be felt hundreds or even thousands of miles from the mine.
Midas guarantees 100 million tons of new mine tailings will be contained, along with all the poisons that are already on site. Can Midas also predict or control what nature's unknowns are?
The South Fork of the Salmon River, the Salmon River, the Snake River, and Columbia must be protected throughout their course, to the smallest tributaries - farms, ranches, cities, and towns. We know from history and science that if you change a river or destroy a river, you can never change it back again. And Midas Gold cannot guarantee that their project would not impact or damage the watershed.
We need only look at the history of extraction companies in the West. Their modus operandi is plundering, destruction, and leaving a mess. And unforeseen natural disasters happen.
Is another Superfund site the type of tourist attraction we want? Do we want to take the risk of damaging what we would not be able to repair? And what do we want to give our children and future generations, gold or an ecosystem?
In 1864 George Perkins Marsh wrote," All nature is linked together by invisible bonds and every organic creature, however low, however feeble, however dependent, is necessary to the well-being of some other among the myriad forms of life." Midas Gold's proposal is nothing more than short term extraction thinking, which ignores protecting our sophisticated ecosystem, something scientists, biologists, ecologists, wildlife experts, and biogeographers are still studying how they work.
We need a "deep time perspective," not another short term extraction perspective. When Aldo Leopold wrote, " The Cro- Magnon who slew the last mammoth thought only of steaks," it makes me think if we only think of gold, we will lose an ecosystem.