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Comments: Hello,

I'm writing to express my opinions and public comment on the Stibnite Gold Project as it relates to the South Fork Salmon.

This is a project that has been in limbo for several years now and hasn't left the periphery of ecologists, recreationists, environmentalists, engineers and advocates alike. The recent release of the draft environmental impact statement (DEIS) identifies significant issues concerning surface water and groundwater, indicating that the construction and operation of the mine may impact water quality and quantity. The DEIS spells out explicitly that the project will adversely affect endangered species act listed Chinook Salmon, Steelhead and Bull Trout and their critical habitat. Midas Gold Corporations large scale open pit mine put pressure on endangered fish; they threaten the world class paddling experience found by descending these wild and scenic rivers.

Midas, responsible for this Stibnite gold mine proposed project, used manipulative rhetoric, presenting new mining as an opportunity for "environmental restoration,". The need for restoration is directly due to previous history of mining. Let us be clear: Mining is NOT the solution to mining. The proposed project intends to mine for gold and antimony. Antimony is a harmful metal to mine, known to enter into the soil and groundwater, leach into tributaries and cause death to small sized mammal animal populations. Further more, Midas Gold claims to incorporate a mitigation plan in accordance with the Presidential Memorandum: Mitigating Impacts on Natural Resources from Development and Encouraging Related Private Investment (November 2015)- they do not provide detailed clarity on what that would look like, as far as what "modern" mining techniques they are using that would produce different outcomes from the past mines in the region, or ways that they would "avoid or minimize harm" - and minimize relative to what? This is a very large proposed mine and while Midas can say that they are working with guidance from the Presidential Memorandum, the memorandum itself is very vague and leaves room for a great deal of environmental destruction. In regards to ecological impacts, there is also a lack of detail as to how the proposed fish passage will impact the surrounding landscape and vegetation. As seen on numerous fish passages and fish ladders on the Yellowstone River to name one of many, these passages are commonly unsuccessful and have heavy impact on the surrounding area. It is a concern that these passages will be ineffective and have detrimental impacts. Furthermore, the plan includes a "wildlife mortality reporting tool," thus acknowledging that this will kill wildlife. This tool seems utterly ignorant to the fact that the goal should be to not kill wildlife.

In regards to indigenous peoples impacted by this project, the 216 page plan document has ZERO mechanisms for specific inclusion of tribal governments, or a measure of impacts specific to Native American people or tribes who utilize this region for fishing and hunting. This proposal would disproportionately impact local tribes, and there is no mechanism to balance out that disproportionality. (The prefix trib as in tribe or tribal is used twice in the document, with no specific tribes named). The executive summary does not specifically name any tribes and the need to maintain the hunting and fishing lands of the Nez Perce Tribe. ? Lastly, a plan this long and dense serves as a deterrent to allow the public to actually meaningfully engage in the comment process. Further, the document lacks many of the technical details necessary in the actual operationalization of the mining activity to determine the level of risk to the surrounding region. The Riverside community of Idaho expect a proposal with more conscious, intention and awareness than the one delivered.

?Thank you for your time,

?Katie ?