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First name: Sydney

Last name: Schumacher

Organization:

Title:

Comments: Hello,

My name is Sydney Schumacher and I currently live in White Salmon, Washington. I have background in the river restoration and fish habitat industry after working for an environmental engineering firm for 2 years. I am a individual who not only values the rivers but works to protect them. In addition, I am avid kayaker who actively uses the whitewater resources of Idaho. Every time I visit Idaho I make sure to visit the pristine rivers in the state. This includes rivers like the South Fork Salmon. That being said, I am writing to ask for the opportunity to comment on the Supplemental Draft Environmental Impact Statement in order to address all of the incomplete information of the current statement.

The DEIS clearly states that all of the alternatives presented, apart from Alternative 5, would impact federally listed endangered fish species, their habitat, and the watershed's water quality. More specifically, Midas restoration claims are based on the success of a mile long tunnel around Yellowpine Pit. I had a few comments/questions about this tunnel.

-How will fish species present at Stibnite know to use this foreign tunnel? Have tunnels like this had any success rate in the area at "transporting" fish upstream?

-Wood and log jams are very essential part of fish habitat and survival of salmon in these rivers. How many log Jams will be removed and is there a plan to replace them?

Additionally, the Midas proposal says that up to 250 acres of mature white bark will be removed. This is a huge loss of groundwater and absolutely detrimental to the health of the surrounding ecosystem. When areas of trees like this gets removed it causes a huge increase in runoff which causes extreme erosion. When the river continues to erodes down to bed rock it looses the very necessary gravel it needs for fish spawning. The white-bark is very important in maintaining snow pack and regulating runoff on these hillsides. The trees also provide seeds that are a food source for many species of wildlife. The white bark is sensitive and takes about 50 years to mature/bear cones.

That being said, is there a proposed plan to keep these trees in place?

Lastly, who is keeps Midas accountable for cleanup and follow through with restoration efforts? Will this mine positively impact the the local community in any way?

Thank you so very much for your hard work and for reading this. I appreciate all effort to protect this sacred place and piece of land . Please confirm receipt of this message.

Sincerely,

Sydney Schumacher