

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 10/19/2020 11:49:04 PM

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Organization:

Title:

Comments: My name is Abraham Role. I grew up in Idaho and was raised on the wild rivers and mountains of Central and N. Central Idaho where I also have worked as a commercial whitewater river guide and now continue to enjoy recreation and the solitude afforded by Idaho's amazing rivers and mountains. The beauty of Idaho's South Fork Salmon River, its tributaries, and generally, the intact wilderness and the healthy ecosystems managed by the US Forest Service are what make Idaho special.

I am a citizen concerned about the continued health of the river and forest ecosystems in the headwaters of the South Fork of the Salmon River and therefore I am writing to request for extension of the comment period for the Draft EIS for the Stibnite Mine Project to 120 days. I am currently writing on my day off in the middle of a 45-day biological consulting project. Personally, I know many professionals, friends, and acquaintances who, due to complications associated with COVID and inordinately busy lives have not had time to comment during the excessively short comment period. Therefore, and for the additional reasons that follow, I'm requesting that the comment period be extended to the full 120 days:

1) The DEIS for the Stibnite Gold Project contains an enormous amount of information, much of which has not been readily available to the public. It is unreasonable to assume that 45 days plus the given partial mini-extension (to 10/28/2020) is enough time to thoroughly examine and comment on a document thousands of pages long. The full extension of 120 days is needed as a minimum to review the document in a way for citizens to be able to submit substantive comments.

2) Similar mining proposals, such as the Pebble Mine DEIS 2019 (120 days), Rosemont Copper Mine DEIS 2011 (90 days), Idaho Cobalt Project 2007 (originally 60 days but was extended to 90 days in response to requests for additional review time), Thompson Creek Mine MMPO DEIS 2014 (modified mine plan of operations 90 days), have had comment periods at least twice as long.

3) Further, the given comment period does not account for input from citizens who may have had their time/ bandwidth further limited due to life events (such as births and deaths) and/or the extensive amount of natural events (wildfires and hurricanes) that have impacted citizens during the limited given comment period. In order to hear public input, you must account for the true limitations and lack of inclusivity for citizens of different circumstances in the given number of provided days.

4) In the given comment period, there is a lack of acknowledgement that this comment period also falls immediately before the national election, and citizens have limited bandwidth due to personal obligations to engage in political processes. More time is needed to comprehensively review this project during this time of a national election.

5) There is evidence that Midas Gold Corp. and its subsidiary Midas Gold Idaho, Inc. have been pressuring members of the U.S. House of Representatives, other involved federal agencies, state lawmakers, and the USFS to approve this project in an expedited manner. Extending the comment period to 120 days will reassure the public that the USFS values the public's input, and is operating for OUR public lands, not for the benefits of special interests.

Thank you very much for your hard work and for reading this comment. I urge you to please strongly consider extending the comment period for the Draft EIS for the Stibnite Gold Project to 120 days. Please confirm receipt of this message.

Sincerely,

Abraham Role