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First name: Zea

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Organization:

Title:

Comments: Hello,

My name is Zea Robbi and I am an avid outdoor recreationist and whitewater kayaker. I am not writing on behalf of a special interest group, but rather because I am concerned about what happens to the public lands and rivers I care about. My passion for rivers began in Idaho, where I worked for many years guiding rafts on the Payette River. I have also been privileged enough to boat the wilderness section of the Main Salmon River. I have witnessed the remote beauty of the South Fork Salmon River and it is a remote stretch I have seen nothing comparable to in 15 states and 3 continents of whitewater paddling explorations. Working in the whitewater rafting industry and joining the tight-knit community of whitewater rafters and kayakers fed my passion for conservation and environmental health. Idaho, often dubbed the "whitewater state," hosts an unparalleled beauty of public lands, and I believe that these public lands have monumental value to both the state's residents and outdoor tourism industry.

I am writing to ask that a supplemental draft Environmental Impact Statement be created by the Forest Service for the Midas gold mine, because there is a lot of missing information in the current DEIS, as I discuss below, and I believe the Supplemental draft EIS will be necessary for the public and other relative agencies to complete their comments with all of the information they need available.

Most specifically, I have concerns related to the Midas Gold Mine plan for removal of toxic materials coming from the mine (i.e. cyanide). Cyanide leach mines have been banned in Montana, Wisconsin, and countries around the world because of potential toxic leaching into waterways. The Midas DEIS does not have substantial information pertaining to how they would mitigate cyanide leaching into the water downstream, a water-way that is currently pristine and an important fish habitat. Historically, adverse events with open-pit mines leading to cyanide leaching have not been an 'if' but rather a 'when' situation. Because the Midas DEIS does not have a properly detailed plan for how to address this seemingly inevitable situation, I believe that a supplemental draft EIS be released. Furthermore, the removal of cyanide from the proposed Midas mines via trucking is another factor I feel the need to comment on. Both single and double liners on leach vats are known to tear. Highway 55, a road I have driven countless times, is a dangerously crowded curvy two-lane highway with extreme tourism traffic, and I feel that the Midas DEIS needs to further investigate the danger of driving heavy loads of toxic materials along that road regularly.

As a river conservationist and long-time member of the Idaho whitewater community, I feel the need to submit my concerns on the Midas gold mine's DEIS and ask for a Supplemental Draft EIS. This is so that the public, like myself, is not impeded from understanding possible adverse impacts of the project due to the missing and incomplete information in the current DEIS. Please address my concerns.

Sincerely,

Zea Robbi