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Organization:

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Comments: To whom it may concern,

I have several serious reservations about the Stibnite Gold Project. The first being the extent of its benefits to Riggs and the other small communities along this Salmon River. These communities rely heavily on the ecotourism that arises from the whitewater, fishing and game opportunities along this river. This project poses a serious threat to what could be a long term sustainable resource for these economies. While the Stibnite Gold Project offers short term jobs for these communities, we've also seen a tendency for these projects to exploit the land, and when there is no more resource to be extracted declare bankruptcy and put the onus back on the taxpayer and community for the cost and hazard of cleanup. The risk of this outcome does not outweigh the short term benefit of allowing this project to continue.

Second, I am concerned about the threat to the ecosystem. The wilderness that surrounds the Salmon is one of the largest and most remote contiguous wilderness areas in the lower 48. This land is home to myriad species including steelhead and chinook salmon. While we have already seen an incredible decline in the prevalence of these species, I worry that this project would irreparably damage their spawning areas on the South Fork of the Salmon River. These two species are protected under the endangered species act, and allowing this project to continue would show gross ignorance of that fact. While this is the most specific threat to wildlife of exploiting this river for the short term profit of the Midas Company, I can only fear what extrapolative harm might come from severe damage to this ecosystem.

It is painfully clear to me that this project would only benefit the most upper rungs of the circles involved. Short term profits for those at the top levels of the Midas Company and government, while grossly neglecting the long term needs of the river's ecosystem and consequently the economies of communities that benefit from the real resource here: the Salmon River. Please do not allow this project to continue.

Thank you,
Jackie Kearney