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Comments: I have a home on Valley Rim Road, just outside of McCall, in an area that will be adversely impacted by almost every aspect of Stibnite's proposed gold mine. Please extend the comment period to the full 120 days, so that experts in assessing the environmental impact will have an opportunity to address the proposal in detail.

Among my concerns:

1. Discharge of arsenic, mercury and other contaminants in an area with zones of significant fractures, faults, and slides seems certain to contaminate ground and surface water in an area remarkable for the lack of such contamination. That contamination will undoubtedly persist for decades, and there are no reliable guarantees that Midas will endow an appropriate trust fund to deal with it. Furthermore, there is insufficient or no indication of how the negative impacts will be mitigated.

2. Over half the mine area is in pristine habitat, undisturbed by such contaminants. The impact on the quality of air and water will clearly be negative. As will the impact on fish and wildlife. Local residents will suffer the consequences not only in quality of life, but also in diminishment of the recreational opportunities open not only to residents, but also to visitors. Chapter 4 of the DEIS too often relies on outdated or partial statistics.

3. It is unclear who will be responsible for treatment of the hazardous waste produced by the mine. Who will transport that hazardous waste? To where will it be transported and treated? At whose expense? In an area of narrow roads that border easily contaminated land and water, these concerns are major and should be adequately addressed in the EIS.

4. Is the production of more gold (which is not a strategic or critical mineral) a benefit to anyone other than Midas? The suggestion that the mine might also produce antimony seems a red herring. Any useful quantity of antimony will need to be processed in Asia, which undercuts the argument that it is important for national security.

Let's extend the comment period and hear independent assessments from experts.