

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 10/23/2020 11:48:45 PM

First name: Megan

Last name: Hollenback

Organization:

Title:

Comments: I grew up in Idaho and have a deep love and connection to my environment, especially the South Fork. I have been going there with my family for years to fish, camp, soak in pristine hot springs and find solitude in nature. As I've gotten older and started my own family, even more so. As a resident of McCall, it's really easy to find beautiful spots on the river to fish and find opportunities to teach my kids about nature and wildlife and how human behavior directly impacts everything. My kids always find garbage to pick up and love to leave the outdoors better than they found it. They love to learn about fish, especially salmon and how important they are to our ecosystem. This connection to the land is important to pass down and teach our kids about because they are the future. They will be the ones responsible to make things better than we left it. River recreational use and impacts to these opportunities on the East Fork of the South Fork, Johnson Creek, the South Fork, and the South Fork downstream are completely neglected in the DEIS. If this proposal goes through, generations of people after us will miss out even having the opportunity to speak up as citizens of this land who want to protect it. The benefit of this proposal really doesn't positively impact the people. If people realize Idaho doesn't care about recreation, people are going to stop coming here and recreational companies are going to be moving out. There are so many unknowns about the real impact this will have on not only the river, but the community. The assumptions that the DEIS is pulling from old sources directly contradict what Midas Gold is advertising. It is time to dig for truth. The lack of significant analysis on recreation in the DEIS raises many questions and concerns. We know from history, man's impact on the environment does not go by without a negative impact on wildlife, fish population, the health of the river, road and river access, native tribes, and the community. I love this river, I love where I live, and I want more than anything to preserve it for future generations to enjoy.