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First name: Katia

Last name: Van Wesemael

Organization:

Title:

Comments: I am sending in this comment, as I have some major concerns regarding the Stibnite Gold Project EIS #50516. First of all, I am an avid outdoor recreationist and value rivers and the outdoors in general for their environmental, cultural and societal value. Idaho is home to some amazing, pristine and simply unique and outstanding whitewater and therefore holds a special place in my heart.

I am writing to ask the U.S.F.S. to extend the comment period for the Stibnite Gold Project Draft EIS to the full 120 days. There are tons of reasons why the comment period needs to be at least the minimum of 120 days, but I would like to highlight some of the most important to me personally.

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 THE PEOPLE's public lands, not for the benefits of special interests.

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 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.

Last but not least, with the continuing increase in COVID-19 cases in Valley County and Idaho and the general circumstances and repercussions of COVID nationwide, it is now even more imperative that the Forest Service grant this request for an extension of the comment period to 120 total days. Commenting on a proposed project is the most significant way that the public can communicate with the agency regarding the potential environmental and community impacts and provide vital information so that the agency can make an informed decision. The importance of public comment to the integrity of the NEPA process and agency decision-making cannot be overstated, and in these unprecedented times, it is crucial to ensure that the public's opportunity to engage in the NEPA process is ensured. Further, some residents of rural Idaho who would be impacted by this project have little or no internet access and as the DEIS is only available online and many libraries and other places of internet access are closed due to COVID, these community members need more time to access and review the document.

Thank you very much for your hard work and for reading this necessity of action in extension of the comment period to 120 days. Please confirm receipt of this message.