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First name: Todd

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Organization:

Title:

Comments: Dear USFS,

I am writing today to express my concern over Midas Gold's proposed Stibnite Gold Project in the headwaters of the Salmon River system. Idaho has been my summertime home for the last few years, and the state's pristine rivers are the main reason that I keep coming back. The South Fork of the Salmon is my favorite of all the rivers in the state, and it troubles me to know that if permitted, the Stibnite Project would degrade the health and natural state of that river. The South Fork attracts thousands of recreation enthusiasts from within Idaho, but as well as from across the U.S. and around the world. These fishermen, hikers, hunters, kayakers, rafters, mountain bikers, off-road enthusiasts, photographers, etc. are attracted to the South Fork Salmon river corridor for its pristine state and spectacular natural beauty. These groups, both local and visiting, generate a sustainable and long-term income for local tourism, hospitality and supporting industries. The jobs that Midas promises from the mine will not last as long as these sustainable industries.

I have worked on mineral mines in Nevada, and from that I can tell you that no matter the environmental precautions Midas promises, the South Fork Salmon River, the surrounding area, and the watershed below (Salmon River, Snake River, Columbia River, and Pacific Ocean) will endure the effects of the Stibnite Mine. No mine is low-impact, and the environment around the Stibnite will never be the same. Please consider Idaho's future of tourism, recreation and environmental well being, and do not permit Midas Gold's permit to re-open the Stibnite Mine.

Thank you,

Todd Wells