

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 10/26/2020 10:31:15 PM

First name: Steve

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Organization:

Title:

Comments: Dear US Forest Service

I am Steve Jones and long time resident of Idaho and resident of McCall Idaho. I have explored the South Fork of the Salmon for many years by kayak, raft and hiking. I am in real estate have some concerns.

Travel of hazardous materials along rivers and creeks.

This project will require year round shipments of thousand of tons of explosives, hazardous chemicals and fuel to the site.

All shipments will travel through residential and commercial areas of McCall or Cascade, then along 75 miles of backcountry roads to the mine site. The Draft Environmental Impact Statement does not analyze the accident and spill risk anywhere on Hwy.'s 95 or 55 or in the towns of McCall or Cascade. The DEIS grossly underestimates the accident risk on backcountry roads. The DEIS contains no analysis of the effects of a spill and no plan to clean up a spill.

Human error is always a big factor while on roads and not only the drivers for Midas but drivers coming on them can cause a truck to spill into the many creeks and also our towns. The assumption that 91 meters from access routes contain all important fish habitat potentially impacted by spills is arbitrary and capricious.

The DEIS says the Yellowpine route is planned to used first until the new route along Burnt Log is completed. The DEIS has No geohazard analysis conducted for Yellowpine route, danger of this route is repeatedly elaborated with its proximity to water (Alternative 2 transportation section).

The other transporting concerns are in the section 4.16.2.1.5 transportation route to Lewiston posses huge public health risk with drinking water and recreational water sources along the way. Also this is one of the highest road accidents in the State of Idaho.

## 2. Social and Economic Impacts

In the DEIS there is an uncertainty regards the type and extend of local employment, sections 4.21-1 and 4.21-2 discuss these issues.

As a real estate agent we are currently seeing incredible demand for housing with homes on the market selling in one day with up to 10 offers. Just today a house in McCall is pending with a bidding war bringing the sale price up \$100,000. This demand is not going away as Idaho is the number one in migration state in the US. Many of the buyers are from out of state and can afford the prices as these prices go up.

In Cascade Idaho this past year the sale prices of homes have increased over 20% and we have a shortage of homes to sale.

The DEIS has the prediction of a population increase of 438 new residents. 59% of Valley county households pay more than 30% of their income on housing. With population increase local housing demand will continue to increase. There will be a greater scarcity of affordable housing and higher prices for real estate. The DEIS offers no mitigation for the exacerbation of this local crisis.

In section 4.21-15 it says Public utilities and the McCall-Donnelly school system have the most potential to be impacted by population increase. Substantial adverse impacts could be expected to the McCall-Donnelly School system and the water and sewer system capacities depending on where new workers reside. The DEIS offers no mitigation for these adverse impacts.

Valley County public agencies and service sectors could experience adverse impacts from wage inflation and/or understaffing. Government agencies have limited flexibility to adjust wages or increase funding to pay contractors. Labor cost increases affect the capacity of government agencies to continue providing services like school bus drivers, plow operators, garbage haulers and road maintenance. Contraction could also occur for private businesses relying on lower wage workers. This all could result in loss of local businesses and reduced public services. The DEIS offers no mitigation for this potential crisis.

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### 3. Recreation Impacts

It is noted in the DEIS that the local communities rely heavily on tourism to support their economies" and that "[t]he analysis area is a popular area for a variety of recreation activities on both private and public lands," yet there is no report, information, or analysis on how the Stibnite proposal will affect tourism, recreation, or the related economic benefits to local communities. A supplemental report and information are needed accordingly.

We live by the recreation that people come to enjoy in Valley County, I feel that mining and recreation are conflicting uses of our area. Tourism and recreation do not have the boom and bust of mining, it is a steady stream on income for our business community.

Idaho's Recreation and tourism generates \$7.8 billion in consumer spending and support 78,000 jobs; 79% of Idaho's residents participate in outdoor recreation; and recreation opportunities is a recruitment tool for businesses used to attract and retain workers (Source: Bureau of Economic Analysis, 2018; Idaho Business for the Outdoors, 2020). Recreation and tourism are a big deal locally, state-wide, and nationally and thus, please provide the missing information on impacts to recreation and recreation and tourism economies as related to the Stibnite Alternatives and a management plan and contingencies for the recreation in the area per each alternative.

In Section 3.4.3.3.17 SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC CONDITIONS, the DEIS notes that "Communities near the analysis area are rural and rely heavily on tourism and the trade industry to support their economies" and yet the Recreation section of the DEIS (3.19 beginning on page 603?) does not include any information on the impact the project will have on local recreation. Please provide an economic analysis of the local tourism economy and the Stibnite impacts including methods, sources, and data relevant to the most recent 2-3 years.

In closing I am not against mining, I do object to the Midas Proposal due to the reason stated above and I encourage you to not move forward with this project, it is not if but when impacts that will cause damage to fish,

the water, and our communities. We do not need the jobs when you do not even have housing for people now.

Thank you Steve Jones