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First name: Daniel

Last name: Patrinnellis

Organization:

Title:

Comments: Hello -

Thank you for providing a space for people like me to feel our voices are heard. I know the public can read these comments but I am really interested in creating a change in a person, or multiple people, who work within the U.S. Forest Service, Midas Gold of Idaho or any tertiary employees of the Stibnite Gold Project. Mining is huge! I work in the energy sector and the fissile material that my industry requires is costly, messy, and expensive to pull from the Earth. But we need the energy that it produces to go forth and do better things; the same with the gold, silver and antimony that Midas Gold wants to remove from 2,800 acres of our public lands. These are the public lands that your children will hunt, fish and explore when they are young adults, raising families of their own.

Precious resources like gold, silver, and antimony do need to be harvested in order to progress the human cause. These materials make their way into every piece of equipment that make my life easier and more enjoyable. The roughly \$1 billion in construction and 500 direct jobs created by this proposed mining enterprise is something the average Idahoan should value and want for their state. We should celebrate that Midas Gold included a robust voluntary mitigation proposal for the various affected resources, but this entire project is aimed at the wrong geographical area. These public lands need to be preserved for the future, not exploited for now.

This part of Idaho - the Headwaters of the South Fork of the Salmon River, is worth far more to humans than the elements hidden in those hills. These are some of the last wild and free places on our portion of the continent. We need these types of lonely and beautiful non-human areas for our collective sanity, and we must protect them now so that future generations can discover their power. These places speak to the side of our minds and souls that are drowned out by the doldrum of human existence in a modern world. These wild spaces are where I go, every year, to remind myself that no matter what is happening in the world or in our country, we're all still stuck on one spaceship. We, as a group, are hurtling through space and time on a rock orbiting a nondescript part of our galaxy. There seems to be nothing too special about our position within the galaxy, or the universe at large - but I can tell you from personal experience that the South Fork of the Salmon river is a deeply special place. Please do not mine the upper reaches of the South Fork Salmon River.