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Comments: The COVID-19 Pandemic has highlighted the importance of our public lands. The proposed mining activity at the Stibnite Gold Project site along the south fork of the Salmon River would be a disastrous leap backwards for this country.

For a moment, please consider the risks and rewards of this project. We have plenty of gold in our economy that has already been mined and is available for commerce. In fact, gold demand has declined slightly in the last 8 years. Additionally, increasing mining capacity of gold will decrease pressure on developing technologies to effectively recycle gold from electronics. This country's supply of wild places has been steadily declining. These wild places can not be recovered or recycled from other products, and are of great value to the country and to the world. They are also a source of renewable and sustainable tourism revenue for the beautiful state of Idaho. The proposed Stibnite Gold Project will irreparably damage this wilderness area. The Environmental Impact Statement for this project acknowledges the damage to the river's water quality, the consumption of river water from mining activity, and the adverse impact to endangered fish species and habitat. There is also a very high probability of polluting the river - nearly all mining projects end up polluting waterways. Finally, the increased infrastructure and truck traffic negatively impact the surrounding wilderness area.

Midas Gold is a foreign company, with foreign investors. They want to disturb an important and pristine wilderness area in the United States of America to make a little more money for themselves and their investors, while putting America's public lands at risk, to produce a product that the country nor the world needs more of. This is the wrong project for the American people. Once lost, this wilderness cannot be recovered. Conversely, if at some point Humanity needs more gold to continue, new gold mining projects could be considered; for the time being, the risk greatly outweighs the rewards (unless you are a Midas Gold Executive or investor). Until then, keep Midas Gold off our public lands.