

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 10/27/2020 2:59:28 PM

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Title:

Comments: As a native Idahoan, I have been following the proposals from Midas Gold to conduct mining operations in the mountains around Yellow Pine, ID for some time. I grew up in Valley County and the importance of the natural environment was instilled in me at a young age. I have many concerns with Midas Gold, a foreign mining company, proposing to begin new mining operations in our State. The proposal would undoubtedly have negative effects on the headwaters of the Salmon River. Although Midas Gold claims they will clean up the existing remains of past mining operations, I do not believe that there is a positive environmental outcome of re-opening the area to mining. The last time the Stibnite mine was operational, the mining company filed for bankruptcy and left the taxpayers with the cost to clean up their mess. Although many other individuals do not seem to have concerns with the environmental issues or the long term hazards that will be present to endangered fish populations, water quality and overall environmental landscape, I do not support Midas Gold in their proposed operations. The positive impacts to the area and State such as job creation and claimed environmental restoration will be short lived when compared to the long term detriment that the mining operations would have on the natural environment. The economic impacts from hunters, kayakers, fishermen, rafters, mountain bikers, hikers and photographers will provide more long term positive economic impacts to the area. These visitors to the area travel here for natural and scenic beauty. The impact of outdoor enthusiasts will provide a more reliable and stable economic boost to the local economies as opposed to a more brief influx of mining related jobs that disappear once the operations are completed.

Also of importance to consider is the risk to water quality involved with allowing Midas Gold to conduct their mining activities. I understand that countless large trucks will be traveling on roads that are parallel to streams and rivers. What if a truck crashes into a river and pollutes/spills its material into the water. Although Midas can have contingency plans for these types of events, there can be no doubt that in this scenario, water contamination is guaranteed. Why take a chance at putting water quality and all wildlife that use and access the stream at risk?

The importance on the remaining wild and natural landscapes needs to be more prominent. We seem to understand the value of minerals and currency but the value of nature, wildlife and water quality are not recognized equally. With Idaho growing in population every single day, these areas, such as the South Fork Salmon drainage, Yellow Pine and all downstream corridors that may be negatively impacted by Midas Gold's operations, need to be protected and sheltered from further development. Please consider Idaho's Nez Pierce Tribe, Idaho's tourism, recreationalists and the environment when considering Midas Gold's proposal. Do not approve their permit to reopen the Stibnite mine.

Thank you,

Alex Dalglish