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Organization:

Title:

Comments: To whom it may concern:

I am writing to implore you to deny Midas Gold's proposal to mine gold and other minerals from the South Fork of the Salmon River. This is an economically and environmentally short-sighted proposition that enriches a private corporation at the expense of America's people and public lands.

On an economic timescale, this mining operation is a "quick buck" for Midas Gold. Twelve years is an extraordinarily short time to justify the long-term impacts of this proposition. The jobs it will provide will be low-wage, high-risk jobs that are neither numerous nor long-term enough to justify approving the mine. Any economic influx into the local community for contract work or indirect services will be similarly brief. At the same time, members of the local community that depend on the surrounding wilderness for their livelihood (economically or otherwise) will be deeply, negatively impacted by the environmental damage caused by the re-opening and expansion of the mine. If approved, you are swapping corporate profits and low-wage jobs for the livelihood of generations of people who have depended on this wilderness.

In the mountain west, we know that economy and environment are intrinsically linked. Studies conducted all over the world have repeatedly shown that preserving and protecting local ecosystems creates healthier communities that enjoy greater long-term economic stability than communities that prioritize extraction of natural materials over preservation. You only get one shot at this: re-opening the mine with the promise of environmental rehabilitation at some uncertain future date opens the door endless bad outcomes. Once the water is polluted, or the fish are gone, or the price of gold drops and Midas Gold disappears, or any of the many foreseeable and unforeseeable outcomes occurs then the damage is done. The environmental value of the area is lost and the human and financial cost to attempt to regain it will be insurmountable.

The Payette National Forest belongs to every American. It does not belong to Midas Gold. Please take the time to carefully consider the comments before you and I ask you to truly look at this proposition on a 25, 50, 100-year horizon. The timeline Midas Gold is proposing is a blip in the time of human experience and about a nanosecond on Earth's timeline.

Sincerely,

Carrie Kruse