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First name: Jonathan

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Organization:

Title:

Comments: To the USFS,

I am writing to express my concerns about the effects of the Midas Gold Stibnite project on the South Fork Salmon Watershed and greater Snake and Salmon systems. The East Fork South Fork and South Fork Salmon Rivers are my favorite rivers in the world. They possess unsurpassed geologic, ecologic, and spiritual qualities.

As a teacher, kayaker, skier, backpacker, hunter, fisherman, and overall enthusiast for wild places, I've traveled the world in an attempt to be immersed in wildness. I've never been in a place more special than the South Fork Salmon River. I can't even imagine the connection indigenous peoples feel for this drainage. It remains their spiritual home and source of sustenance via salmon harvest and gathering.

The South Fork Salmon represents the idyllic ruggedness that has come to represent the American West. The South Salmon also is prime habitat for wild salmon, trout, birds of prey, and countless other species. In my opinion it is the best whitewater run in the US. I recently moved away from Cascade to be closer to family but I along with many other users will continue to visit the communities of Cascade, McCall, Yellow Pine, and Riggins to paddle, ski, fish, swim, camp, hike, bike, and forage for years to come which will deeply impact the local economies and culture.

Science and history tell us that the type of mining Midas is planning is likely to jeopardize the unique beauty of the South Fork Salmon. Please protect the grandeur of the South Salmon for generations to come. The economic benefits of outdoor recreation and tourism will far surpass the short term economic rise that Midas, a Canadian company, promises for the local communities.

Please protect this gem of a river,

Jonathan Absher