

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 10/28/2020 4:21:36 AM

First name: Brian

Last name: Peters

Organization:

Title:

Comments: Hello,

I am a resident of Valley county and work performing tree and vegetation surveys across the south western part of Idaho. I often work near Stibnite in the south fork, e.f.s.f drainages and the Frank Church River of No Return Wilderness.

My interests in the project stem from being a avid user of the area for recreation and employment. I have many concerns with the project moving forward.

Recreation impacts

It is noted in the DEIS In section 3.4.3.3.17 Social and Economic conditions that "the local communities rely heavily on tourism to support the economies". But the Recreation section of the DEIS (3.19 beginning on page 603) does not include any information on the impact the project will have on local recreation. Please provide an economic analysis of the local tourism economy and the Stibnite impacts including methods, sources, and data relevant to the most recent 2-3 years.

Road/Avalanche hazards. As a winter time recreationalist, I have personally seen avalanches in the area and on the roads leading into Stibnite. Yet there is a lack of analysis of an Avalanche program for mine site access and worker's safety. Futher, the impacts of using explosives along the Burnt Log route-which would impact nationally designated wilderness. There is no analysis about how Midas plans to mitigate avalanche hazard (stated 5 year recurrence interval in Appendix C) along the Stibnite road during the construction phase before the Burntlog road is even built. This is unacceptable. Please provide analysis of the avalanche mitigation plan. This area has seen devastating wildfires and that creates a higher level of occurrence of avalanches of large scale. More avalanches and more destruction is the future.

Access and transportation

I regularly travel these roadways and there will be accidents. Tight, curvy, dangerous roads that are often snowy, wet and unstable. People will be killed by Midas driven vehicles. Let me repeat that because it will happen. People will be killed by Midas driven vehicles. That alone should be enough to stop the project. 4.16.2.1.1 there is no discussion of road narrowing due to snow conditions. I regularly travel this route in the winter and by March it is a 1 lane road over warm lake summit and extremely icy. A 6% grade is steep and scary in a passenger vehicle with good snow tires. Driving a large truck on that road is irresponsible and blatant disregard for public safety. Please provide additional analysis that address increased traffic from Midas vehicles and increased public traffic during winter months.

Thank you for your time.