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Comments: I retired as a fish biologist in March, after 33 years working for the State of Idaho and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. When I started, the South Fork of the Salmon River was starting to recover from the historic mining activity that created toxic sediments, an unstable channel and a loss of native fish habitat. It has taken DECADES to get to a point where our renowned native anadromous Chinook, Steelhead, and Pacific Lamprey are returning, and native westslope cutthroat trout, our state fish, and bull trout once again are thriving. The South Fork Salmon River has been the home of the Nez Perce people since time immemorial, and the landscape and all within hold deep cultural significance to them now. Millions of taxpayer dollars have been spent to recover the habitat and restore the unique fisheries of the South Fork Salmon River. The proposed operations by Midas Gold will not only negate restoration actions, they will also likely cause irreparable harm. I am not confident that the proposed action will be effectively mitigated should the tailings and toxic water escape into the South Fork Salmon River watershed and downstream into the Main Salmon River. As the last freeflowing river accessible to wild anadromous fish runs, it deserves to be protected. I am opposed to any mining activity in the South Fork Salmon River.