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First name: Taylor

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Organization:

Title:

Comments: To whom it may concern,

I am writing to voice my opposition to the proposed stibnite gold mine.

My background is as a carpenter and river guide based out of McCall, ID. The proposed mine gives me cause for concern. I love Idaho and respect it as a mountain playground. In my time here I have watched as our tourist economy grows and flourishes. Tourists bring their hard earned dollars here to enjoy our clean mountain air and pristine waters. A mine high in our mountains stands to impact not only the area immediately surrounding the mining area but also everything and everyone downstream.

My main concern is that the draft DEIS does not offer any information on the economic impact on communities including Yellow Pine, Big Creek, Warm Lake, Cascade, McCall, New Meadows, Riggins, Lewiston. I propose the forest service require Midas Gold to provide an impact study on potential impacts to tourism in these communities before taking any action.

I am also concerned that the draft DEIS does not provide ample study into the impact of the new mine in previously disturbed fish habitat. Furthermore the proposal does not fully address how effective the proposed "fish tunnel" will be.

The DEIS also provides very little information regarding possible avalanche mitigation around the mining area and roads that provide access to mining operations. The only study of avalanche hazards along the "Burnt log" route were done via computer using Google Earth and used vegetation patterns to analyze potential slide areas. Further evaluation is required because although vegetation patterns do provide some information they had been proven to be unreliable and further study is required to know the full extent of potential avalanche hazard. As well as potential impact of mitigation efforts on roads and infrastructure.

My final concern is in regards to recreational access in the mining area. The draft DEIS did not provide ample information on potential road closures due to mining activity.

For reasons stated above as well as countless others I implore the forest service take no action regarding Midas Gold's proposal.

Thank you,
Taylor Swartz