

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 10/28/2020 6:14:57 PM

First name: William

Last name: Sifford

Organization:

Title:

Comments: I oppose any additional mining, depositing any new mining waste and use of hazardous chemicals or fuel tankers in the proximity of any tributary to the Salmon River. I own multiple properties in Valley County as well as Idaho county that depend on a healthy tourism and recreational economy. Any mining waste or hazardous material spill will directly affect the value of my property as well as any income or personal recreation I plan to derive on these properties. The first property I have owned a small cabin on the banks of the East Fork of the South Fork of the Salmon River close to the village of Yellow Pine. That has been a family recreational spot for approximately 20 years and will remain in my family for them and their children to enjoy. The mining roads and operations will impair any personal recreation that I was expecting. My second property I and my architect are working with McCall City creating a \$4 million multi-use building on my McCall property whose income will depend on a healthy tourism industry. I am expecting an income from this property project to be in the range of \$3 million plus my personal residence location. The effect on tourism and recreation of this Midas Gold project will adversely effect not only my income but the tax base of the city of McCall as well. The mention of the imminent danger of an arsenic and mercury or other hazardous waste spill in the water will deter and destroy the foreseeable recreational and tourism economy that has been established on the Salmon River and its tributaries, i.e. East Fork of the South Fork of the Salmon. My third property on the banks of the main Salmon river in Idaho County. It is an RV Park that relies solely on the tourism and recreational industry. It is a long established profitable operation with Salmon and Steelhead fishermen and fisherwomen, UTV riding, jet boating and multiple other recreation opportunities. My investment in this property is also substantial and my plans here are long term for the future of my family and my children. Much of the Salmon River economy is based on the recreation industry. Any imminent danger of a spill from Midas' Gold new foolhardy adventure will destroy any future profit I might make from this purchase.

My opinion is not based on emotion. I have a Bachelors Degree in Environmental Health with a lot of course work in Fisheries Management. I have also worked in the fish farming industry in the Midwest and I know how important it is to maintain good water quality and adequate food stuff for fish to survive and thrive. Salmonids are one of the most sensitive species I have worked with and the most sought after sport fish in our State. I make substantial money on the people who come to visit our state. The Salmon River and its tributaries are a precious jewel in Idaho that thousands of people are flocking to every year in order to escape their overcrowded cities. This is to the benefit of our overall economy with a very small environmental impact footprint. I benefit directly from this economy.

My read of the DEIS is that it is incomplete and holds partial truth to the problems that will be encountered and is flawed to the point of unworkable. At the very minimum the comment period needs to be extended until after the election to its full 120 day comment period. All the missing materials need to be published and researched. Our country is in dire straits and the political pressure to ram this imminently destructive project through is apparent and deplorable. The antimony "justification" is unworthy due to the Chinese control the Antimony market and could manipulate the market at any time.

I am all for remediation of the current harmful heavy metals and pollutants in the East Fork of the South Fork of the Salmon but not by excavating even more pollutants and storing them in an uncontainable environment. Our local housing market is stressed to the point our current workforce is unable to find housing without adding even more stress to our local citizens for the benefit of New York investors, foreign and domestic. Young people who grew up in Salmon Idaho are now unable to purchase a house due to the mining activity in that area, young people in Challis are turning to selling drugs because of the mining collapse in that area. We don't need to add McCall-Donnelly-Cascade don't need to be added to the list.

We made a treaty with the Nez Perce tribe that includes land in the Stibnite area. For the sake of being good examples in virtue and integrity for future generations we are obligated to honor that treaty.

Any future comments to amend this comment can be expected and hopefully admissable when the DEIS is a completed document.

With warm regards