

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 10/28/2020 8:01:20 PM

First name: Ginna

Last name: Lagergren

Organization:

Title:

Comments: As a kayaker and camper, I have enjoyed the upper reaches of the East Fk of the South Fk of the Salmon River while in the region before heading down the South Fk and the Main Salmon. I am against allowing Midas Gold to mine in the Stibnite project for the following reasons:

Humans and animals cannot eat gold, but they do need to eat fish. The head waters of this part of the Salmon river flow all the way to the Pacific ocean and the fish in the area of the Stibnite Mine are already Endangered. Fish are vital to humans but also vital to animal survival all the way out to the ocean to where the Salmon migrate. The survival of the Pacific ocean Orcas that depend on Salmon are dwindling at alarming rates. Endangered Species status should always take precedence over development interests.

According to Midas Gold's 'Plan of Restoration and Operations' for the Stibnite Project, "The purpose and need for the Project is for Midas Gold to economically develop and operate a modern mining operation at the Stibnite site to obtain financial return and benefits from its property rights and investment and supply extracted minerals for various uses." But their public relations marketing tries to make you and us believe that "Restore the Site" is their goal.

It is naïve to believe a mining company will honor pledges for restoration when their mission is to create money and mine gold. According to the Lewiston Tribune - June 7, 2019, Laurel Sayer, CEO of Midas Gold Idaho, said Midas Gold has never mined at Stibnite and, according to the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act of 1980, is not responsible for the pollution.

Since they chose to buy the site on the premise of making money, they are the owners and in fact are responsible for everything at that site as long as they own it.

Their mining work will destroy the area for a minimum of 20 years (that's a Minimum). During their mining operations they would make fish "live" thru a tunnel, according to their plan - for more than 20 years! And they would ruin the previously-finished reclamation work of the restored Meadow Creek wetlands to make way for a new pit. Meadow Creek is currently a habitat for spawning of Chinook Salmon and other species.

Please - US Forest Service - believe that Midas Gold means that they are NOT responsible for the pollution, and they are only using marketing to make us think they will restore the site; but not for 20 or more years later. They designed their own environmental assessment to meet their own marketing. The Forest Service needs to provide an independently produced assessment that addresses a critical eye to the sensitive environment habitat of Endangered Species, the company's proposed plans for mining and upsetting the East Fk and Meadow Creek wetlands, plans for restoration and the guarantee of independent oversight of all and guarantee of bond to cover unintended spill damage.