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Comments: I have been a resident of Valley County for 39 years. I have spent many years camping, hiking and fishing on the South Fork and East Fork of the Salmon River. I would like to comment on the proposed Midas Gold Mine at Stibnite. I will mention several reasons that this proposal should be denied. There are many widespread problems that would arise if the proposed mine is allowed.

The traffic in McCall, Donnelly, and Cascade would be increased beyond the capacity we could accommodate. The year-round increase in heavy truck traffic hauling hazardous materials through our towns and backcountry roads, along critical streams and rivers, is a risk that should not be allowed to happen here.

The increase in migrant workers will put beyond capacity pressure on local schools, housing and town infrastructures. We should not have to expand to accommodate this.

For the mining operation at the site, there are many environmental concerns that should be considered. The water use numbers in the EIS are astounding. They would not only deplete the streams, and they would drill wells for more water and lower groundwater levels. This would be a severe impact on the trees, shrubs, and other native plants in the area. Wildlife would also be impacted. The massive excavation at the mine would destroy critical habitats, including the whitebark pine, which plays an important role in snow stabilization. The Midas Gold Mine would introduce tons of hazardous chemicals to the mine site, and this is a huge risk. They would also introduce huge amounts of sewage effluent from the large number of employees working at the site. This is all unnecessary impact to the Stibnite site and can be avoided by denying this proposal.

The risks that this mine operation presents should not be allowed in this area, with critical fish habitat rivers at stake, and other environmental impacts that would occur. A lot of public national forest land would be in danger if this is approved. Stibnite is not the place for a giant open pit mine.