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Organization:

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Comments: After reviewing the Stibnite Gold Project DEIS, I am writing to urge the Forest Service to select Alternative 5, the no-action alternative.

I have been exploring the South Fork Salmon River drainage for over a decade. From 2008 through 2010, I worked in Yellow Pine as a fisheries technician for the Nez Perce Tribe. Every year since, I have travelled back to paddle the South Fork Salmon River and its tributaries. I know the area intimately, including Meadow Creek, Johnson Creek, Burnt Log Creek, and the upper East Fork of the South Fork above and below the historic Stibnite mine site. These are special places, both for sustainable recreation and as critical wildlife habitat.

Every action alternative in the DEIS would damage area watersheds and harm the salmon, steelhead, and bull trout populations that depend on clean water and healthy, functioning ecosystems. And the effects of Midas Gold's preferred alternative-which allows new pits and tailings piles, acid leaching infrastructure, increased truck traffic, power lines and cell towers, and the construction of the Burnt Log access road-would transform thousands of acres of Idaho backcountry into an industrial zone. I oppose the project, and ask the Forest Service to select the no-action alternative.