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First name: Jill

Last name: Dahlman

Organization:

Title:

Comments: I am a US citizen, born in Ohio. My father was a Commander in the US Navy. I am writing this letter to provide my voice as guaranteed by my rights as US citizen. Public lands belong to all US citizens, and that is why I write today regarding the Stibnite Gold Project.

The Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) for the Stibnite Gold Project shows that Midas Gold Corporation's proposal, if permitted, will disturb 3,423 acres of land (75% of which is public land--see my reference as to why I am entitled to speak, above) and miles of the South Fork of the Salmon River. In addition, over 13,000 acres of public land will be inaccessible during the nearly 20 year project lifecycle. The proposed project will harm ESA listed Bull Trout and Chinook Salmon by destroying critical spawning and rearing habitat, and will threaten irreplaceable recreational resources downstream of the project site. Aside from this, it is destructive on more levels than can be counted.

When discussing any public land, it is important to see where the economy of the region currently is at. In this case, it is with recreation dollars. The Stibnite Mine virtually guarantees that the recreation economy in that region is wiped off the face of the Earth. It cannot be brought back again. Millions of dollars will be lost; businesses will go belly-up. Accordingly, Stibnite Mine cannot be permitted.

Midas Gold seeks to establish itself as a pro-environmental, locally-focused company with a stellar public relations strategy consisting of endless statistics, graphics, and literature touting their plans of restoration and goodwill for Idaho; however, their operations plan fails to live up to these ideals. It also fails to consider how horrifically local economies, dependent upon recreation dollars, will be impacted. It's convenient how Midas Gold overlooks these important economies, the people that will be affected, to say nothing of the flora and fauna of the area, which will bear the result of all of the damages for generations to come.

I am disappointed with the US Forest Service's failure to conduct a rigorous and fair environmental review and its dismissal of potential impacts to the Stibnite area. The US Forest Service is supposed to be CARING for the land, ensuring it survives in its current (or better) state for future generations. What you're proposing is the exact opposite. Be the US Forest Service that my father fought for--the one I grew up respecting. Stop caving to commercial interests that care nothing for the flora and fauna that we are mandated to be stewards of. Start doing what is right for future generations.