

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 10/27/2020 3:16:58 PM

First name: Sarina

Last name: Chalmers

Organization:

Title:

Comments: Dear USFS,

I am writing to express my concerns about the Stibnite Gold Project proposed by Midas Gold. I am a senior ecology major at Colorado College and an avid whitewater kayaker. Because of my love for the South Fork of the Salmon river, I have kept a close eye on biologic and ecological research of the watershed for the last few years. I have also done extensive research on the salmon runs of the area, as anadromous fish traveling through the Salmon River system end up in the Snake River where I work. Informed by an ecologic understanding of the watershed, I have serious concerns about the impacts of the proposed Stibnite Gold Project.

My primary concern is with the claim that Midas Gold will rehabilitate damage done to the South Fork Salmon River Corridor (and EFSF) from previous mining projects. It is my understanding that long-term studies of the area have found natural resilience in the wake of past projects and that environmental intervention is not warranted at this time. Even if this is not the case, it appears to be impossible that Midas Gold will be able to complete their project within the environmental parameters they claim to adhere to. The new mining project will undoubtedly negatively impact the surrounding area for years to come.

The way that Midas Gold has "greenwashed" their project with environmentally restorative rhetoric is only further confused by the project's dubious intentions. With the current reality of global climate change, it is not the proper time to focus efforts on mining for gold. Gold is a resource that the United States doesn't consider a strategic or critical mineral. The prospect of antimony production as a byproduct of gold mining would explain Midas' strategic push for the project. However if antimony production is indeed the company's intended outcome, then they have promoted their project under false pretenses with inaccurate environmental promises.

This project waves a number of red flags to scientists, environmentalists, and recreationalists who cherish the Salmon River watershed.

I appreciate you taking the time to read through comments and hope you take all concerns into consideration.