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First name: Arwen
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Organization:
Title:
Comments: Good evening. I write to express my opposition to the Stibnite Gold Project. I object as a private citizen, a lifetime recreational patron, and an appreciator of this area of the South Fork of the Salmon river. I first played in the South Fork when I was four years old and I have returned every summer since. I have known about Midas Gold for a long time and feel that going forward with this project would be both illogical and irresponsible. First I would like to submit a request to extend the comment deadline to the full 120 day period. There are many who have not yet been able to express their thoughts. Second, as I'm familiar with this project and know much about the ecology of this drainage I feel justified in writing that the project should not go forward. This is not the time nor place nor circumstance for this mining operation. The drainage itself is of paramount ecological and recreational value. The character of this federally designated wilderness is unique and means something special to everyone who travels there. The plans of Midas Gold would forever change the character of this drainage, putting roads and open pit mining operations in undisturbed wilderness. The increased traffic would not only sully the experience of those who come to recreate, but threaten the whole ecosystem. There are threatened species of fish that dwell in the surrounding area that stand to be negatively impacted, perhaps catastrophically by the mining operations. I don't see how the risk of spills, ecological degradation, loss of precious wilderness to the public, and destruction could be worth the gain of a mining operation of the non essential mineral of Gold. One might argue that the antimony recovered by the mining operation could be worth the risk, but there are other pre-existing mining operations that can more readily fulfill this need without further destruction of habitat. As a citizen with my own stake in the public lands of the United States, it is my opinion that the long term health of this area and it's resources demands continued protection against mining efforts. Protecting this unique, spectacular, ecologically significant slice of public land summer a far more sustainable and practical strategy than letting it be mined and opening it up to risks and irreversible damage.
Thank you for your time, I appreciate your attention.