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Organization:

Title:

Comments: Concerns Regarding Stibnite Project

Dear Linda Jackson, Vicki Christainsen, and NEPA review committee,

In addition to my aforementioned concerns in a previous comment, it has recently come to my attention that there is a missing assessment of the impacts of the 2020-Buck Fire along Johnson Creek. This is not included in the DEIS. I have concerns about the increased erosion and sedimentary impacts to critical salmon habitat. This area doesn't need wider roads and increased heavy truck traffic, much of which will carry toxic materials. Additionally, the most recent data for vehicles in the impacted area is from 2017. Idaho just had its busiest summer of backcountry travel with unprecedented numbers of people spending time camping and enjoying the outdoors. The DEIS needs to have current data, a new hazard analysis, and mitigation plans identified. The impacts on the forests and rivers from road infrastructure alone outweigh the benefits from "restoration" projects and mineral extraction by Midas.

It's not just the South Salmon that is impacted. It's the Warm Lake Highway, Trail Creek, Johnson Creek, Burnt Log Creek, The E. Fork South Fork, the Upper South Salmon, the Main Salmon, the Snake, and the Columbia. Clean water acts as highways for the fish and are directly impacted by the expanded road infrastructure that Midas wants to build to access this mine. It goes against the Forest Management Plans for the Boise National forest 2010 and the Payette National Forest 2003.

I cannot state this fact more clearly- people want to visit Idaho's pristine forests and rivers. I spent the summer living and exploring in this area and in my 25 years of living here, I've never seen so many people out and about. Every weekend felt like 4th of July and Labor Day combined. The public values these places, many of whom have no idea that this project is even slated to happen. I implore the Forest Service to think about all these stakeholders rather than a small greedy few.

Thank you for your consideration of public comments. I also ask that this be extended to a full 120 days.

Sincerely,

Maranda Stopol