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Comments: You probably don't remember me but I work for The Wilderness Land Trust. We went on a site visit together to the Annie Creek private inholding in the Frank Church River of No Return Wilderness. That was such a great day and I was very happy to have met you!

The one shadow over the otherwise pleasant day was the stop we made at the old Stibnite Mining site. I certainly wasn't going to bring it up during the visit but the fact that we thought it necessary to stop and glorify a. the damage that has already been done at this site and b. the "restoration" plans in the works was devastating to me.

I am reaching out to you to implore you to say NO to these plans. To say NO to the proposed Stibnite Gold project. I have reviewed the Draft Environmental Impact Statement and can't see how a project that would have such detrimental effects could be considered.

This includes over a century of elevated water temperatures. But that estimation is based on current conditions and we all know that water temperatures are on the rise without the help of a massive mining operation.

This includes 20.8% habitat loss of Chinook Salmon, a fish that is already on the brink of extinction. A fish that the state of Idaho has poured millions of dollars into trying to restore. How does it make any sense to pour that money in and then allow the work to be negated through the Stibnite Gold project? And 20.8% loss is a very conservative number as, again, it does not take into account a natural changing environment but instead assumes that the current condition will remain the same.

Midas Gold is selling this project as restoration and has some creative and well-intentioned pieces in the pitch. However, these benefits won't be seen for at least 16 years. If at all. In the meantime, the direct impacts of Midas Gold's project as proposed in the DEIS, Alternative 2 show 162.5 acres of wetlands - destroyed, 630 acres of riparian areas - destroyed, and 20.8% of chinook salmon critical habitat - destroyed. They will build three new open pits, a road through a designated roadless area, and create a 400-acre tailings storage facility.

Those impacts do not take into account the incidentals of any mining operation. Nothing ever goes as planned. Once a mining project is permitted, problems always arise. Contaminated water can spill out of processing ponds during rain or snow, toxic dust can come off mining trucks causing health warnings to not eat local berries or game, an earthquake can damage an earthen dam or critical facility.

All you have to do is look at their history and the history of any gold mining operation out there. When has a mining company effectively restored that which they first destroyed to make a profit? How often do mining companies instead make their billions and then leave the place in a much worse condition? How does restoring the area benefit Midas Gold?

The United States Forest Service's motto is "Caring for the land and serving people". Approving the Midas Gold project would do neither. Please consider the long-term impacts of this project. Please look beyond the empty promises to what would happen if any one of those promises proves false. Please believe that the South Fork of the Salmon River watershed is a precious resource and lives in the hearts of many of the people who you serve, not to mention supports the habitat of innumerable flora and fauna.

Please SAY NO to the Midas Gold project.