



Idaho Rivers United - PO Box 633 - Boise, ID 83701 - (208) 343-7481 - idahorivers.org

Protecting and Restoring the Rivers and Fish of Idaho

Email to dfotsch@boisebikeshare.org

Dear Boise Greenbike employees,

Idaho River's United asks that Boise Greenbike remove the Midas Gold advertisement at Camel's Back Park station and end their partnership with the company. The Midas advertising sign is misleading and goes directly against Greenbike's purpose of sustainable, clean commuting. Midas's Stibnite Gold Project is a proposed open-pit gold mining project at the headwaters of the South Fork of the Salmon River, not a river restoration project as their advertisement would have you believe. Advertising the Stibnite Project is wrong and hypocritical for an organization such as Boise Greenbike that touts environmental and community values.

Idaho Rivers United (IRU) is a 501(c)3 nonprofit environmental advocacy organization with 3,500 members throughout Idaho and beyond. Our members generally are river-loving rafters, kayakers, anglers and environmentally-attuned citizens. The mission of IRU is "to protect and restore the rivers of Idaho." IRU, its members, and supporters expect that protection of rivers for their ecological, scenic and recreational values. The restoration of wild salmon and steelhead species has been IRU's highest organizational priority for the past 20 years. We have also worked to prevent unneeded new dams, decommission dams that have outlived their useful lives, stem water pollution, designate new wild and scenic rivers and defend existing wild and scenic rivers.

Boise Greenbike offers an important, alternative form of transportation to a city that increasingly cares about protecting their environment. Why advertise a mining operation that does not? Mining is and always has been a short term resource grab that ends with long term health and environmental consequences for locals. This project in particular is in a spectacular part of Idaho that deserves protection and preservation from extractive industries. Midas claims their project will be state of the art and effectively capture all of the toxic side-effects from open-pit gold mining. However, these operations have a proven track record of spills and leakages that poison fish, wildlife, and people with unacceptable levels of heavy metals.

Midas also uses the advertising space to claim their project will restore fish migration. The fish at question are native Idaho chinook salmon, steelhead, and bull trout that are currently endangered and rely upon the Salmon River basin's health for their survival. In actuality, the gold mine will work three open-pit mines, fill a river valley with hundreds of feet of tailings, and reroute the very river these fish need to migrate through a tunnel. The only restoration Midas will be doing will be in direct response to their own polluting and disrupting of the site. They are simply taking advantage of the fact that the site has been mined historically, and attempting to degrade it further.

Boise Greenbike is dedicated to making commuting easier and more enjoyable through the use of bicycles. Idaho's native fish make an incredible commute of their own that takes them from the Pacific Ocean all the way up to the mountain streams of central Idaho. Midas Gold's operation will put this commute under an unacceptable level of risk and jeopardize the survival of these unique Idahoan species. Citizens of Boise know the value of a clean, healthy river corridor because it allows for public enjoyment and paths like the Greenbelt. Boise Greenbike should be promoting a vision of a community living sustainably with its environment, and their advertising spaces should do the same.

Sincerely,

Stephen Pfeiffer
Idaho Rivers United