

From: john lewinski
To: [FS-comments-intermtn-payette](#)
Subject: Stibnite Gold EIS Scoping Comment
Date: Wednesday, July 05, 2017 8:04:33 PM

I am worried that the new Stibnite Gold project is nothing than window dressing on an old disaster site that will never be cleaned up and will actually be made worse if anything at all is done there. I have lived in the area almost 40 years and have killed two elk within two miles of the site and have fished for Cutthroat trout in the waters below the site.

1} I am concerned that uncapping tailings that the taxpayers have spent millions to cap will result in the same exact situation that required capping the tailings in the first place. These are the tailing that have to be removed to get at the first site where the most valued ore deposits are supposed to be. Please include an analysis of the direct, indirect, and cumulative impacts of digging up past remediation projects in the DEIS.

2} I am concerned about dumping tailings in a drainage that is endangered bull trout habitat. Please include an analysis of the direct, indirect, and cumulative impacts of destroying bull trout habitat.

3} The two lakes that will be formed from the open pits may be a source of acid mine drainage if the carbonate/sulfate balance fails and there might also be mobilization of heavy metals such as arsenic from these lakes.

4} Most of the gold is supposedly in the first site but they do not have to do restoration in the other sites until after they are mined. This gives them incentive to cut and run after these sites are mined like every other company that has ever mined there.

5} The historic high for gold was \$2,000 per ounce. It is now about \$1250. It was under \$700 ten years ago. A look at the price graph shows massive price differentials. Midas Gold claims that they can mine gold profitably for \$832 per ounce. If the price drops below \$800 an ounce and stays there Midas Gold will cut and run like every other company and leave the mess they have opened up. An analysis of the project has to be made in the DEIS with a fall in the price of gold.

6} Bonding has always been inadequate in the past. The proposal calls for restoration first but this is just window dressing to get at the gold beneath the old mess. They have to do something to get at it. But that still leaves the other two sites, the mine lakes, and the roadless area disturbance. Bonding will be the same joke it has always been when something goes bad and it will.

7} The project proposes to build a new section of road in the Burntlog Meadow connector through the roadless area, a power line corridor and a jeep trail as well as well up past the Riordan Lake trail. These are supposed to be obliterated. These roadless area disturbances will be there forever when the project is stalled or mothballed. This should be analyzed in the DEIS.

8} Many of these mine projects are little more than a sales job to get a project approved and then sell to somebody else. Midas Gold is a company that has never mined an ounce of gold. If they get this project approved they will have a valuable commodity. All environmental regulations Midas has agreed to have to be forced upon the new owner.

This project is almost certain to make a bad situation worse. An mess capped off is going to be reopened. Bull trout habitat will be destroyed. Roadless areas will become roaded. A huge dam is going to be built in an area that has already created one "Blowout Creek." Any success or mitigation will be dependent on the price of gold. Bonding that has been almost non-existent in the past will be again. I am not clairvoyant in predicting these things. It is what has always happened at Stibnite.

John Lewinski