

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide feedback on the Stibnite Gold Project as part of Midas Gold Idaho's Draft Environmental Impact Statement. Public participation is a huge part of the permitting process and I appreciate the opportunity to share my thoughts.

By law Midas Gold Idaho is required to set aside all of the money needed for restoration prior to any mining activity. This gives me peace of mind that the restoration work the company has discussed will come to fruition no matter what happens. If Midas Gold Idaho is allowed to move forward with its work, salmon will be reconnected to their native spawning grounds. This hasn't happened in 80 years! The US Forest Service's Draft Environmental Impact Statement concluded that removing existing barriers to fish migration will help Chinook salmon, bull trout and steelhead. In fact, DEIS 4.12-33 says long-term access to blocked habitat would result in increased productivity and genetic diversity of isolated populations.

Mining has devastated this area. More than 10 million tons of spent ore and unlined legacy tailings piles left by previous mining companies were never properly constrained and are degrading water quality by leaching metals into nearby streams and the groundwater. Blowout Creek water dam failure yearly contributes substantial sediment into the the East Fork of the South Fork of the Salmon River. If approved Midas Gold will reprocess the tailings and re-purpose the spent ore material and make sure it is stored in a secure tailings facility to fix water quality concerns. The sediment problem from Blowout Creek will also be fixed Midas Gold Idaho wants to fix it and I hope you will clear the path to allow their restoration work to move forward.

I encourage the USFS to move the Stibnite Gold Project forward and permit Midas Gold Idaho's project as outlined in their Modified Plan of Restoration and Operations, alternative 2 in the DEIS.

Most Respectfully,

Name: Robert Barnes