

To whom it may concern;

I appreciate the opportunity to comment on the Stibnite Gold Project as it will directly impact me and my access to the backcountry.

The old Stibnite mine site will likely never be cleaned up unless industry takes responsibility for those who came before them. Midas Gold plans to do just that. By mining the site, Midas Gold plans to restore the natural flow and gradient of the East Fork of the South Fork to reconnect historical spawning grounds. The DEIS analysis showed removing existing barriers to fish migration will help Chinook salmon, bull trout and steelhead. In fact, DEIS 4.2-39 says long-term access to blocked habitat would result in increased productivity and genetic diversity of isolated populations. The company will repair blowout creek, permanently solving a source of massive sedimentation and habitat degradation. Plus, in reprocessing and repurposing millions of tons of spent ore and unconstrained tailings, Midas will safeguard water quality indefinitely. To protect the environment, the Forest Service is requiring Midas Gold to implement 156 mitigation measures (appendix D of the DEIS). Part of these measures include a one to one replacement of wetland areas (DEIS 4.11-26), which would lead to a net gain of 346.5 wetland functional units – a 40% increase (DEIS appendix D, table 8-2).

It is with this knowledge that I encourage the U.S. Forest Service to continue to move the project forward and permit the site using alternative 2 as the guide.

I have lived my 48 years in the west central mountains and strongly support the proposal that Midas Gold has put on the table. I have put the effort in to go see the site on a tour and have talked to employees of Midas subsidiaries who only have high remarks on the integrity of this company. It is the only feasible solution to the problem that exists in that area and like your job give a tax base for the county, state, and our country. Not everyone in our area has a opporrunity to get a greater education yet still has a great work ethic and desire to provide for their family. This can help them provide that for this generation and their families.

The special interest groups that oppose this have no interest in improving the site or they would have a proposal on the table. They only have great fear to rely on, no hope or proposals that can fix the problem.

Best regards.

Brodie Nichols

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