

U.S.F.S. Officials,

I write in support of the Stibnite Mine Project by Midas Gold.

I am an outdoorsman and first fished and hunted in the Stibnite and Yellow Pine areas more than 40 years ago with my father. I always wondered what the E. Fork of the S. Fork looked like and how it must have fished, before the original mine devastation occurred. I visited the area again last fall contemplating the same question, but this time with hope that the river might finally be "put back" to what it was, before it was so greatly used, abused and then abandoned.

The fact is inescapable that the old Stibnite mine site will remain the toxic waste eye-sore that it is, unless the mining industry atones for its past environmental sins. While Midas Gold did not create the problem, it is willing to risk shareholder dollars to make reparation for past industry waste and abuse, in exchange for the 'opportunity' to mine again. This time however the mining will be done using today's best-available environmental mitigation technology. And if that is not enough, Midas is willing to bond (e.g, financially hedge their obligation) to clean up the old mess and not create a new one.

Specifically, Midas Gold plans to restore the natural flow and gradient of the river 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 my sincere hope that I will again fish for restored cut-throat trout, salmon and steelhead in this beautiful river in the sections going through and above the old tailings site, knowing both the resident and anadromous fish living or breeding in that river have one less man made barrier to overcome.

For the reasons stated above, please permit the Stibnite Gold Project using alternative 2 and let Idahoans see the benefits of this important project.

Sincerely,

Ron Williams

Name: Ron Williams