

Greetings,

I am writing in support of the Stibnite Gold Project and the benefits it will bring to Idaho. This project has the potential to put hundreds of Idahoans to work, bring a \$1 billion investment into our state and restore an area of Idaho's backcountry desperately in need of repair.

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 4.12-39 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).

As a resident of western South Dakota, I have seen how responsible mining can benefit a state and a community. Our community of Lead has seen the economy boom and has seen how wharf mining has been an accountable partner in restoring and improving the environmental. I would expect no less from Midas Gold.

While the economic benefits of this project cannot be ignored, it also will transform an area in need for environmental repair. Fish haven't been able to swim past the Yellow Pine pit to their natural spawning grounds for 80 year.

It is for all of these reasons that I encourage you to move the Stibnite Gold Project forward with alternative number 2.

Thanks for your Consideration,

Name: Marcia Barnes