

U.S.F.S. Officials,

I have been closely following Midas Gold Idaho's plans for several years. I am excited to finally have the opportunity to comment on their Draft EIS. Midas Gold Idaho presents a huge opportunity for the Gem State.

The Stibnite Gold Project, as presented in Alternative 2, could leave the historical Stibnite Mining District in better condition than it is today. It would result in better water quality in the East Fork of the South Fork of the Salmon River due to lower concentrations of antimony, mercury and arsenic (DEIS 4.9-70) and open an additional 26.5 km of habitat for anadromous salmonoids before mining begins (DEIS 4.12-13). When you compare Alternative 2 with the other options, the choice of how to proceed is obvious. Alternative 3 and 4 would delay the start of the project by two years. Alternative 3 has a larger project footprint size and Alternative 4 would put traffic to the site directly next to the East Fork of the South Fork of the Salmon River. Alternative 5 would leave the site exactly as it is today – in desperate need of repair. The site needs attention and Alternative 2 would make sure it finally gets it.

The Stibnite Gold Project is the type of project our state needs. I highly encourage the U.S. Forest Service to permit this project, using the preferred alternative presented by Midas Gold, as expeditiously as possible.

Thanks for your Consideration,

Name: Steve Blake