

Payette National Forest,

Midas Gold Idaho's Stibnite Gold Project presents Idaho, particularly rural Idaho, with a huge economic and environmental opportunity. I am writing to encourage you to permit the project as quickly as possible.

As it stands today, the Stibnite Gold Project site is a brownfield site. The U.S. government tried to restore the area years ago but the work that was done didn't go far enough. The old tailings piles left by previous mining companies are still unconstrained and therefore present a risk of leaching minerals into nearby streams and the groundwater. Each year, hundreds of tons of sediment continue to be dumped into the East Fork of the South Fork of the Salmon River and other waterways from Blowout Creek, impacting water quality and aquatic habitat. And fish still are not able to swim past the Yellow Pine pit to their natural spawning grounds. This area needs to be remediated and Midas Gold has a plan to do it the right way. After spending time in the Virtual Meeting Room, I believe that Alternative 2 is the best way to mine the site and address the remaining legacy issues. Alternative 3 would locate the tailings storage facility in pristine habitat and Alternative 4 would delay the project by two years and route traffic right next to the East Fork of the South Fork of the Salmon River. Alternative 2 would allow Idahoans to continue to access Thunder Mountain Road from Yellow Pine. The company's main access route would be Burntlog Road and it is clear to me that the company has carefully considered public access in their plans. Midas Gold would plow Warm Lake Road up to Landmark and provide a parking lot at the end of where the company stops plowing. The company has also proposed groomed access to Landmark using the Cabin Creek/Trout Creek Trail. Midas Gold strongly believes in protecting public lands and maintaining Idahoans access to the backcountry.

I urge you to approve the project as outlined by Midas Gold in alternative 2. The Stibnite Gold Project will provide a huge benefit to our community and the local environment.

Have a good day,

Name: Eileen Nelson