

USFS,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide my feedback as part of Midas Gold Idaho's public permitting process.

U.S. Forest Service please permit this project, following alternative 2. Time is wasting and with the sad condition our nation is in right now, our citizens of Valley County and surrounding areas are in a very serious need for the living wage jobs that Stibnite will provide. Yes, we have done our due diligence over the years to research Midas Gold and Stibnite and we feel the time has certainly come to get these jobs started.

I agree with everything Midas Gold is saying about what they are about and what they are doing and their extended plans they want to complete. Yes hopefully they make lots of money because it will be a huge positive for Valley County and the State of Idaho. It is discouraging what the irritating uniformed and sometimes paid naysayers are doing against our Valley County, Idaho State and nation. They are holding the people hostage and won't let us prosper with a living wage that Midas Gold jobs will bring to Valley County. Our children and grandchildren will be able to stay and make a good living for themselves and their families in the mountains that they were raised and love. The level of restoration with all the permits and money involved to increase the quality of clean up before, during and afterwards is quite impressive and if these naysayers would visit the site and see for themselves what is really going on then they would have to stop the lies and misinformation.

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).

Midas Gold Idaho wants to invest \$1 billion in our state, bring more than hundreds of jobs to rural Idaho and still provide access to Idaho's public lands. This is the type of project our state needs. I highly encourage the U.S. Forest Service to permit this project, following alternative 2.

Please keep my comments in mind,

Name: Barbara Norton