

U.S.F.S.,

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.

After reading through the alternatives proposed by the USFS, Alt 5 seems unacceptable. If private industry is willing to take on past legacies, what will happen to the environmental legacies at Stibnite if there is no action? What resources will the U.S. Government dedicate to solving the water quality and fish passage problems if Alt 5 is selected? I worry no resources will be directed to the site and arsenic and antimony will continue leaching into the groundwater and salmon will continue to be blocked from their native spawning grounds. However, if the USFS selects Alternative 2 the site would get the environmental attention that it needs. Under Alternative 2, Midas Gold will pick up and reprocess these legacy tailings, which will reduce long-term metal loading in the ground and surface water (DEIS 4.9).

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.

Please keep my comments in mind,

Name: Dolores Cowell