

USFS,

I appreciate the opportunity to comment on the Stibnite Gold Project as it will directly impact me and my access to the backcountry.

The study of the Stibnite Gold Project brought to light the environmental conditions existing at Stibnite because of past operators. Arsenic levels in the East Fork of the South Fork of the Salmon River are far beyond safe standards. If Alternative 5 is selected, how will USFS address these legacies impacting the waters of Idaho? Who will pay to provide permanent and volitional fish passage? No one has stepped up to clean the site yet and I find it highly unlikely another opportunity like the Stibnite Gold Project will come around. Midas Gold has presented plans to improve water quality and fish habitat under Alternative 2. Section 4.12-39 of the DEIS shows reconnecting fish to more habitat upstream will increase productivity and diversity of these isolated populations. We cannot let the site continue to suffer.

Thank you for the thorough review of the Stibnite Gold Project. I urge you to now move forward and permit the mine using alternative 2 so Midas Gold can put Americans back to work.

Thank You,

Name: Phil LaCross