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I am writing in support of Midas Gold Idaho's Stibnite Gold Project.

The East Fork of the South Fork of the Salmon River needs help badly. A century of irresponsible mining redirected and poisoned its water. Salmon are prevented from migrating upriver, sediment flows freely downstream, and wildlife will continue to suffer each year that the problem goes unaddressed.

Although mining created these problems in the first place, the Stibnite Gold Project can resolve them. Midas Gold intends to restore almost 13 miles of the East Fork of the South Fork of the Salmon River. Their plan calls for rebuilding waterways to allow salmon to travel to their native spawning grounds, creating new fish habitat, removing polluting waste material, and blocking excess sedimentation. In their sum, these actions would return the river to its best condition in nearly a century.

Idaho's natural beauty is awe-inspiring and we should not be content to let it degrade even further than it already has. Now is the time for action, and Midas Gold Idaho has come forward with a proposal that will restore our environment and strengthen our economy at the same time. I see no reason why their work should be prevented, and I strongly encourage the U.S. Forest Service to accept alternative 2 as proposed in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement. This alternative will improve water quality, bring fish back to their native spawning grounds and restore wetlands and stream habitat.

Richard T. Moore
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