

Hello Ms. Jackson and Staff,

I appreciate the the opportunity to comment on the Stibnite Gold Project as part of the U.S. Forest Service's permitting process. This is an important project for Valley County and will have a significant impact on the community. As someone who explores, recreates and cares about our public lands, I, like many others, want to make sure the Stibnite Gold Project is done the right way.

As the East Fork of the South Fork of the Salmon River that passes through Stibnite, it must travel by 10.5 million tons of old, spent ore deposits and tailings materials from decades of mining activity. As you can imagine, this degrades water quality in the river. Midas Gold Idaho will remove, reuse, and reprocess these tailings and waste rock, which your own draft environmental impact statement says will help the local ecosystem by reducing the high concentrations of metals that have leached into the water. In Chapter 4 of the draft EIS, it says removing legacy tailings and waste lowers concentrations of antimony and arsenic in the East Fork South Fork of the Salmon River (4.9-70).

I found the 60 days allotted and the digital tools provided by the USFS meaningful and sufficient for public review. Midas Gold wants to restore the rivers, wildlife and habitat near the Stibnite Gold Project site. We should let them. Please permit the Stibnite Gold Project and continue to move this important project forward.

Sincerely,

Robert Thomas

Name: Robert Thomas