

Greetings fellow staffers!

As a former member of the Youth Conservation Corps, I understand the challenge of managing forest lands for the multiple and sometime competing if not conflicting objectives of commerce and recreation. That's why I'm going on record in support of this project! I heard of it last year via the Geological Society of Nevada, but had the opportunity to visit Idaho this past May.

Alternative Two as proposed by Midas Gold is the best solution to protect important fish populations and the environment. It includes several updates from Alternative One that reduce impact to salmon habitat and increase environmental safeguards. Alternative Two will facilitate action as soon as possible. Unfortunately, Alternatives Three and Four would delay the project by two years, slowing down the environmental and economic benefits the Stibnite Gold Project promises to bring. Right now, with the ongoing crisis caused by the pandemic, we need to build a strong domestic supply chain and provide well-paying jobs for Idahoans. A delay in the project would have negative impacts to rural communities. While I know Alternative Five must be considered, we have come too far in this process to take no action at all in the historical Stibnite Mining District. If Midas Gold is not allowed to move forward with its project, the problems facing the region will likely only get worse.

I would like to thank the U.S. Forest Service for providing the opportunity, and sufficient time, to comment on this important project's permitting process. I hope the U.S. Forest Service will realize the benefits this project and permit the Stibnite Gold Project using alternative 2.

Best Wishes,

Name: Bill Kolstad