

Dear Ms. Linda Jackson,

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Stibnite Gold Project as part of the U.S. Forest Service's permitting process. The Stibnite mine project will be a significant economic contributor to both local and regional communities. The impact analyses identified in the NEPA documentation demonstrates the effectiveness in derisking this mine through its proposed mitigations to impacts. From my perspective the post-closure conditions that would result from approval of Alternative 2 will create the most desirable post-mining use at this site.

Midas Gold Idaho has been assessing risks associated with developing the Stibnite project for the past ten years. The company identified not only a commercially recoverable gold deposit but also associated antimony in amounts justifying its recovery as a by-product. The Stibnite mining operation will become the only producing antimony mine in the United States with estimated recovery of more than 150 million pounds of antimony during the mine's life. Antimony is a strategic metal under U.S. law and its domestic production is mandated by presidential executive order. This mine would produce several years supply of this metal.

During its environmental baseline studies, the company identified arsenic and antimony levels in groundwater that far exceed human health standards at multiple points across the site. The company used this information to design a mitigation process to address this problem. The strategy outlined in the Water Quality Management Plan will enable the reduction of arsenic and antimony in the river to concentrations lower than currently present today (DEIS 4.9-70).

Authorization of Alternative 2 will restore critical habitat for fish with the construction of the fish passageway around the Yellow Pine pit. An additional 16.5 miles of stream habitat for anadromous salmonoids would be restored before mining began. Alternative 2 includes a net gain of approximately 7 miles of potential habitat for steelhead and 7.7 miles for bull trout. The company proposes to do this work external to public coffers; I urge your support and approval of this approach!

Thank you for the thorough review of the Stibnite Gold Project. It is now time to advance this project by your approval of Alternative 2. Sign the permit to approve this mine promptly, and reduce our dependence on imports of a critical metal.

Respectfully,

Name: Walter Martin