

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 7/12/2017 6:00:00 AM

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Organization:

Title:

Comments: I grew up in Long Valley. On my many forays into the Stibnite area over the last 70 years something always stuck in my craw. The "hole" or "Glory Hole" as it was so often referred to. The remaining remnant of 100 + years of extraction with no or little concern with the environment which remained after the "glory" was extracted by the mining companies.

Is there are such thing as doing it right, I asked? No, I've never seen it in traditional mining here or anywhere in my travels. Mining has traditionally left a blight in it's path.

The recent years have, in fact, shown a change in the industry with companies which either by force of regulations or acceptance of their responsibilities or both have taken the industry to a new level of accountability. This usually applies to new operations.

But what about our "Glory Hole" scar? No one, either State or Federal wants the challenges presented by this huge scar. No one wants another super fund site in Idaho.

Finally there is an answer other than a super fund site. Midas Gold has challenged us all. They have provided a proposal which brings us an opportunity to "mend the break."

I don't feel the necessity to repeat the proposal brought forward by Midas. It very clearly speaks for itself. There remains the question of if we are willing to take this opportunity. Let's be real, all such huge undertakings involve risk. But ask yourselves if you want what we have today to remain?

Now, let me put this on a very personal level. I am a former Valley County Commissioner-a Democrat. Anyone who knows me, knows where I stand on environmental issues, recycling, community housing, community development and the economic issues of this County. My record speaks for itself.

When I was asked to join the Midas Gold Boise Board, I had many reservations. I carefully studied their plans, looked at the record they had already established and decided two things. (1) Maybe mining can be done correctly with the environment forefront and that, (2) we have a opportunity to give it a chance. The economic impacts, the communities' benefits, etc. have been expressed over and over. No questions there.

I have staked my personal and political reputation of this project and have agreed to serve on its board to insure that what they have in the plans is what happens.

Are the decision makers willing to do the same? I hope so, it's the only chance we've got to see the "glory hole" disappear from history and see fish swimming upstream to spawn.