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Organization:

Title:

Comments: I m a fifth-generation Idaho native. I have been active in Idaho business, conservation and politics. My love of the Idaho wilderness was stoked by working my way through college as a licensed whitewater guide- on the Main Salmon, Middle Fork and Selway Rivers.

Then and since, I have floated and hiked extensively in the backcountry of Idaho. I have seen the scars of prior mining ventures, including Stibnite.

I am highly supportive of the Midas Gold Plan of Restoration and Operations for the Stibnite mine site because of its thoughtful balance economic of development and conservation values.

This may be the best and only option for the rehabilitation of the site and, with investment from the private sector and the guidance of State and Federal agencies, it could be described as a perfect public-private partnership.

I have studied the Midas Gold Plan, and I see that completion of the Stibnite Project will help re-establish fish migration, eliminate sediment washing down Blowout Creek and remove, reprocess and safely store old tailings and waste rock.

It will also restore the natural flow of the East Fork of the South Fork of the Salmon and have a positive impact on water quality and on fish and wildlife habitats upstream and down.

This is also an economic development opportunity for Idaho that should not be missed. Midas Gold plans to invest \$1 billion in our state! It will bring hundreds of jobs to rural Idaho and will restore wilderness. The project will have a positive economic impact on Idaho generally and especially for Valley County, which has suffered through two cycles of boom and bust associated with Tamarack and its predecessor development, Valbois.

For Idaho, the injection of \$1 billion dollars to multiply through our economy will not just dramatically grow our gross state product (GSP) but it will correspondingly increase state and local (and federal) tax revenues.

From a national perspective, the project will open up a new U.S. source of antimony, to reduce foreign dependence on a mineral essential to many military-defense, consumer safety and energy products.

This is the type of project our state needs. I strongly encourage the U.S. Forest Service to cooperate with federal and state agencies to proceed with the Midas Gold Plan of Restoration and Operations.