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Organization:

Title:

Comments: I am proud to submit my comments in support of Midas Gold Idaho's Stibnite Gold Project. This project presents our state with an incredible opportunity to bring well-paying jobs to rural Idaho, boost our state's economy and use private investment to clean up a brownfield site.

If you examine Midas Gold Idaho's Plan of Restoration and Operations, it is evident the company identified the best possible plan to restore the site under Alternative Two. The company is limiting its footprint to existing disturbance as much as possible to minimize new disturbance, natural fish spawning routes will be restored after being blocked for decades and the company has plans to make improvements that will keep thousands of pounds of sediment out of the river each year. According to 4.12-22 of the draft Environmental Impact Statement, Alternative two would provide an additional 26.5 km of habitat for anadromous salmonoids becomes available before mining begins, a net gain of 11.1 km of intrinsic potential habitat for steelhead trout and 12.4 km for bull trout. The document also indicates this alternative could help to increase productivity and diversity of these fish by opening up access to historically blocked habitat (DEIS 4.12-33). Unfortunately, if Midas Gold Idaho is not allowed to move forward with its plan, it is highly unlikely that these critical improvements will ever happen.

I encourage the U.S. Forest Service to move the Stibnite Gold Project forward and adopt Alternative two as the preferred alternative.