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Comments: Thank you for the opportunity to provide feedback on the Stibnite Gold Project as part of Midas Gold Idaho's Comment Period. I have been closely following Midas Gold Idaho's plans since they first came into our state, in large part because much of the proposed project will take place on public land. The more I have learned about the project, the more excited I am about the possibilities it will bring into our state.

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 hope the U.S. Forest Service will realize the benefits this project and permit the Stibnite Gold Project using alternative 2.