

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 8/31/2020 6:00:00 AM

First name: Joe

Last name: Lupo

Organization:

Title:

Comments: I have been closely following Midas Gold Idaho's plans for several years. I have taken the deep dive into what Midas will potentially do for the area and I am excited to finally have the opportunity to comment on their Draft EIS. Midas Gold Idaho presents a huge opportunity for Idaho and the surrounding area.

Midas Gold Idaho wants to invest \$1 billion in our state, bring more than 1,000 jobs to rural Idaho and contribute millions of dollars in taxes. This is the type of project our state needs now more than ever. It would cost the company roughly approximately \$230 million each year to operate and contribute significant local and state tax revenue. As Midas Gold Idaho grows, it wants to help Idaho families grow along with it. The company has made a commitment to hire locally whenever possible. And they are going to help prepare Idahoans for these well-paying jobs by providing job training. The average salary of Midas Gold Idaho employees is anticipated to be \$80,000. Many individuals in this region have had to depend on seasonal work, having a steady paycheck could change many lives. Alternative 2 of the project will also help improve the environment. It will reduce long-term metal loading in the ground and surface water by reprocessing historic tailings (DEIS 4.9), improve productivity of fish species in the area by opening up access to more habitat upstream (DEIS 4.12), provide a net gain of 9.3 km of volitionally accessible intrinsic potential habitat for Chinook Salmon (table 4.12-29) and reprocess old tailings waste, would lead to long-term reduction in metal loading in ground and surface water (DEIS 4.9).

After reading my letter, I hope you can see why you should permit the Stibnite Gold Project. This project is a good thing for Idaho, helps decrease America's dependence on foreign countries for critical minerals and cleans up the environment.