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Comments: Midas Gold Idaho's Stibnite Gold Project presents Idaho, particularly rural Idaho, with a huge economic and environmental opportunity. I am writing to encourage you to permit the project as quickly as possible.

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 4.2-39). 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.