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Organization:

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Comments: DEAR MS JACKSON,

I have been closely following Midas Gold Idaho's plans for several years. I am excited to finally have the opportunity to comment on their Draft EIS. Midas Gold Idaho presents a huge opportunity for the Gem State.

Midas Gold has made it clear reclamation efforts will start alongside operations. For example, before mining ever begins, fish will be reconnected to their native spawning groups upstream through a fish passageway. Eventually, the Yellow Pine Pit will be backfilled and the river can be permanently reconnected. Analysis in the draft Environmental Impact Statement showed removing existing barriers to fish migration will help Chinook salmon, bull trout and Steelhead. In fact, DEIS 4.2-39 says long-term access to blocked habitat would result in increased genetic diversity of isolated populations and productivity. They have worked to find safe access routes to the site that keeps vehicles away from our precious waterways. Additionally, under alternative 2, the company decreased traffic during operations by 26 percent by generating lime on site (table 2.3-2, 2.4-3, 2.3-8). Plus, the company is trying to minimize their impact on the environment by keeping facilities within the existing foot print of historic mining operations.

I appreciate your time and thoughtfulness. For the reasons I stated in my letter above, please permit the Stibnite Gold Project using alternative 2 and let Idahoans see the benefits of this important project.

My best,

Name: Rodney Blauer