

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 9/3/2020 6:00:00 AM

First name: Larry

Last name: Ourada

Organization:

Title:

Comments: U.S.F.S.,

As an engineering emeritus professor and researcher in water quality in the mining arena, I write this preliminary observation. Please approve the EIS Alternative 2 rapidly and grant the proposed plan of operation, as well as all the other required permits.

Midas Gold Idaho's Stibnite Gold Project presents Idaho, particularly rural Idaho, with a huge economic and environmental opportunity. I

I will continue to review the Plan of Restoration and Operations and I believe the Stibnite Gold Project is an opportunity to repair the environment and bring an economic boost to the community. As proposed in Alternative 2, the project finances environmental reclamation and provides the workforce and resources necessary to complete it. If Midas Gold isn't allowed to move forward with its plan, this area in Idaho's back-country will continue to suffer. Currently, salmon are being blocked from their native spawning grounds and hundreds of tons of sediment are pouring into the watershed each year. It is time to address these issues and Midas Gold has the right plan to do it. According to the Forest Service's own analysis in 4.12 of the draft Environmental Impact Statement, the increased access Midas Gold will provide to feeding and refuge areas for androgynous fish, such as Chinook salmon, can improve productivity of the species. In appendix A of the document, you can see Midas Gold is committed to minimizing disturbances to wildlife during the project and improving the region once mining is complete. In reviewing the document, I think the company is taking the steps needed to protect the area and mine the area safely in Alternative 2.

I am currently Reviewing Midas Gold's plans, and so far it is clear to me the company really believes in taking care of the environment and keeping the community safe. I urge you to permit the Stibnite Gold Project as outlined under Alternative 2 and keep this project moving forward.

Please keep my comments in mind, Dr. Thom Seal, PE

Name: Dr. Thom Seal, PE

I am writing to express my full support of Midas Gold Idaho and the Stibnite Gold Project. Midas Gold has shown they are committed to Idaho and want to take care of the environment. I hope you move forward and permit this project as quickly as possible.

This project, especially alternative 2, is in line with Idaho values and our way of life. Idahoans have long understood that using the land and protecting the land can go hand-in-hand. Alternative 2 blends improving public lands with building a robust business and it is an approach I encourage. From repairing a legacy mine site to developing roads and power infrastructure, the \$1 billion investment the company would make in Idaho will benefit the entire state. For example, ground and surface water quality are currently a concern around the site. In some places on the site, arsenic and antimony levels in the water are currently 700 times higher than drinking water standards. Midas Gold can correct these problems by following Alternative 2. According to DEIS chapter 4, section 4.9, removing legacy tailings and managing water quality provides long-term reduction in metal loading in

ground and surface water. These are benefits we cannot pass up.

While the economic benefits of this project cannot be ignored, it also will transform an area in need for environmental repair. It is for all of these reasons that I encourage you to move the Stibnite Gold Project forward. There are a number of good reasons to allow Midas to move forward with their plans to mine and restore the property at the same time. One of the important reasons not mentioned so far is that it will be a supply source for antimony, which is necessary for our military and commercial purposes. Since antimony is only found around Stibnite in the United States it becomes crucial for it to be mined there as it will help eliminate the current situation where we have to rely on China selling us what we need. Please allow this project to move forward. I was born and raised in Boise and my parents Homesteaded in the hills outside of Boise. I still consider myself to be an Idahoan and love Idaho and all its natural beauty. This project appears to protect and improve the environment rather than injure it.

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