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First name: Chris

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Organization:

Title:

Comments: DEAR MS JACKSON,

I am writing to share my thoughts on Midas Gold Idaho's Stibnite Gold project. There are many reasons why I am excited for Midas Gold's project to come to life and I hope through my comments you will understand why.

The old Stibnite mine site will likely never be cleaned up unless industry takes responsibility for those who came before them. Midas Gold plans to do just that. By mining the site, Midas Gold plans to restore the natural flow and gradient of the East Fork of the South Fork to reconnect historical spawning grounds. The DEIS analysis showed removing existing barriers to fish migration will help Chinook salmon, bull trout and steelhead. In fact, DEIS 4.12-39 says long-term access to blocked habitat would result in increased productivity and genetic diversity of isolated populations. The company will repair blowout creek, permanently solving a source of massive sedimentation and habitat degradation. Plus, in reprocessing and repurposing millions of tons of spent ore and unconstrained tailings, Midas will safeguard water quality indefinitely. To protect the environment, the Forest Service is requiring Midas Gold to implement 156 mitigation measures (appendix D of the DEIS). Part of these measures include a one to one replacement of wetland areas (DEIS 4.11-26), which would lead to a net gain of 346.5 wetland functional units [acirc][euro]" a 40% increase (DEIS appendix D, table 8-2).

This project is a huge opportunity for Idaho. I encourage the U.S. Forest Service to permit alternative 2 so this brownfield site can finally be restored.

In addition to this well stated introduction, permitting this mine will create hundreds of high paying jobs for not just for the employees of Midas Gold but also suppliers, consultants and contractors. It will also serve as a community pillar for schooling, environmental awareness, and career advancement. I know of many professionals (including myself) and tradesmen that would become a full-time Idaho resident if we were offered a position at Midas Gold.

Best Wishes,

Chris Mack

Name: Chris Mack