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Organization:

Title:

Comments: To Whom it May Concern,

I have reviewed Midas Gold's Stibnite Gold Project's Plan of Restoration and Operations (PRO) and strongly encourage that Alternative 2 be approved.

Midas Gold has presented a complete and comprehensive plan to restore the area. The numerous restoration and mitigation components of this Project exceed what the law requires. I commend Midas Gold who is willing to take on decade's old environmental liabilities. It seems vital for private investment to step forward with a plan to address these abandoned legacies.

Upon issuance of the Record of Decision (ROD), the site can be cleaned up by private equity in an innovative way without resorting to duplicative nor excessive government oversight. It is such a smart idea for Midas Gold to mine, re-mine, reclaim, remediate, and restore the Site.

Background [acirc][euro]" I am a registered professional mining engineer. I have lived and worked in southeast Idaho for almost 35 years. I have worked in all aspects of the Mine's Life Cycle [acirc][euro]" permitting, exploration, development, operations, reclamation, remediation, restoration, and closure. An integral part of Mine's Life Cycle is creating and maintaining recreational benefits to the area/regional.

Recreational Benefits [acirc][euro]" Based on my personal experience in the Phosphate Patch of southeast Idaho, allow me to outline a few recreational benefits that area mining companies have and are providing the community:

- Mining companies are partnering with the State of Idaho's Department of Fish and Game's (IDFG) Access Yes! program -- <https://idfg.idaho.gov/yes>. Access Yes! is a program designed to improve access to private land or through private land to public land by compensating willing landowners who provide access.

- Almost 10 years ago, mining companies and conservation groups came together to form the Upper Blackfoot River Confluence or UBC ( <https://www.upperblackfootconfluence.org/> ) to jointly work to improve the Upper Blackfoot River Basin. Projects are developed and selected to improve stream health and trout habitat based on a comprehensive assessment of habitat conditions and needs in the Upper Blackfoot River Basin.

- As appropriate, funding has been provided to mitigate impacts of mining. Enhancements to the Blackfoot River Wildlife Management Area (as well as numerous other sites) -- <https://seidahomitigationfund.com/> . The Fund is used to pay for projects that protect, conserve,

and/or enhance wildlife habitat in Southeastern Idaho (with emphasis on projects in the vicinity of the Rasmussen Valley Mine).

- Numerous projects are included as an integral part of reclamation and mine closure, such as:

- Providing (safe) recreational access to inactive and reclaimed portions of the mine site.

- Constructing hunting and camping spots (pull-outs) as part of site reclamation.

- Plan with the end in mind. Mines are reclaimed to facilitate multiple use on public lands after mining has been

completed.

- Donations provided to local recreation groups that include walking and biking trails, shooting ranges, bike parks, park improvements, etc.

- Donations to national organizations such as Trout Unlimited, Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation, Pheasants Forever, Ducks Unlimited, etc. for various habitat, stream, and trail enhancements.

It is evident that Midas Gold has and will follow suit in incorporating these type of efforts into their Plan of Restoration and Operation (PRO). I commend them for their efforts and commitment to a better recreation future in Idaho.

As the U.S. Forest Service and other state and federal agencies review the proposed plan and determine the course of action, I encourage you to consider and appropriately weigh the positive benefits Midas Gold will have on Idaho. Alternative 2 truly is a win-win opportunity for Idaho and its natural resources.

Thanks for your consideration,

Mitchell J. Hart, P.E.

Soda Springs, Idaho

Name: Mitchell J Hart