

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

First name: James

Last name: Hassebrock

Organization:

Title:

Comments: I am writing to express my views on Midas Gold Idaho's Stibnite Gold Project. The opportunity presented by the Stibnite Gold Project is compelling for many reasons and it is a project I am supporting.

The easy path for those in public office is to just say no to development. Rarely does one suffer criticism for stopping the development of domestic resources. It has been our past practice to prohibit development domestically and purchase natural resources from some third world location. Often the development of natural resources in third world locales is done with no where near the oversight and environmental care that would be implemented here in the U.S. Wouldn't it be better to develop resources domestically, Do so in a responsible manner, reduce our reliance on China for a very important element "Antimony"?

This project would begin by addressing environmental concerns of an existing open pit. There is a plan to improve water resources and natural habitat. The project would employ locals. With the oversight of U.S. agencies I would feel much better about developing the resource here in the U.S. rather than exploiting third world countries and leaving the poor people of those nations with the environmental waste of unregulated, corrupt governments. People need resources to live in a developed modern economy. Let's develop those resources here in the U.S. And lets do it in a responsible manner with public oversight and participation from local residents.

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 the and 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 4.12-39 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 footprint of historic mining operations.

Midas Gold Idaho wants to invest \$1 billion in our state, bring more than hundreds of jobs to rural Idaho and still provide access to Idaho's public lands. This is the type of project our state needs. I highly encourage the U.S. Forest Service to permit this project, following alternative 2.