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First name: Nate

Last name: Evans

Organization:

Title:

Comments: 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.

I am impressed with the Midas Gold's current dedication to repairing legacy environmental issues at the site from mining activity that took place on and off for more than 100 years. This is a major investment. Government agencies would not have the budget to perform all the necessarily reclamation work. This private/public partnership is the right approach for Idaho and will solve environmental issues while providing the area with a significant economic boost. In reviewing the DEIS, it is clear to me Alternative 2 presents the best option to protect Idaho's environment. It limits the footprint of the project, eliminates the West End development rock storage facility and extends the lining in Meadow Creek to protect against streamflow reductions. Alternative 3 proposes relocating the tailings storage facility to more pristine habitat on site and would leave the existing tailings unprocessed. This would mean we would miss out on key potential impacts of the project. 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. Current arsenic and antimony levels are too high, we cannot miss out on these benefits. I urge you to select Alternative 2.

The Stibnite Gold Project is the type of project our state needs. I highly encourage the U.S. Forest Service to permit this project, using the alternative two presented by Midas Gold, as expeditiously as possible.