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Comments: Thank you for the opportunity to provide feedback on the Stibnite Gold Project as part of Midas Gold Idaho's Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

It was mining companies in the war years that did the damage to this area, not the US government, but it fell on the EPA to clean it up and that has not happened. There are lots of projects for the government to work on. Here is a real win-win for the Government, industry, the environment and the people of Idaho. Midas Gold will take on the burden and cost out of their profits to re-connect the Salmon to their ancient spawning grounds. They will fix up the unsightly workings of past mines and restore the land. I understand the negative commenters who may be skeptical. My question to my fellow citizens would be: if it hasn't been repaired in 2020, when will it happen? The answer is likely never.

If you examine Midas Gold Idaho's Plan of Restoration and Operations, it is evident the company identified the best possible plan to restore the site under Alternative Two. The company is limiting its footprint to existing disturbance as much as possible to minimize new disturbance, natural fish spawning routes will be restored after being blocked for decades and the company has plans to make improvements that will keep thousands of pounds of sediment out of the river each year. According to 4.12-22 of the draft Environmental Impact Statement, Alternative two would provide an additional 26.5 km of habitat for anadromous salmonoids becomes available before mining begins, a net gain of 11.1 km of intrinsic potential habitat for steelhead trout and 12.4 km for bull trout. The document also indicates this alternative could help to increase productivity and diversity of these fish by opening up access to historically blocked habitat (DEIS 4.12-39). Unfortunately, if Midas Gold Idaho is not allowed to move forward with its plan, it is highly unlikely that these critical improvements will ever happen.

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