

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 9/15/2020 6:00:00 AM

First name: Patricia

Last name: Phelps

Organization:

Title:

Comments: Attention payette national forest supervisor,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide feedback on the Stibnite Gold Project as part of Midas Gold Idaho's Draft Environmental Impact Statement. Public participation is a huge part of the permitting process and I appreciate the opportunity to share my thoughts.

Restoring the Stibnite Gold Project site will be an incredible investment. Work clearly needs to be done in the area but it should not be funded through taxpayer dollars. Fortunately, Midas Gold Idaho wants to make the investment. The company is proposing a mining project and full-scale restoration project. They have plans to reconnect fish with their natural spawning grounds.

According to analysis by the U.S. Forest Service in section 4.2 of the DEIS, establishing long-term access to historically blocked critical habitat would result in increased productivity for Idaho's bull trout, chinook and steelhead. This free movement and access to habitat can improve genetic diversity of the fish. Midas Gold will also properly reprocess and safely store old tailings, which, as outlined in Chapter 4 section 4.9 of the DEIS, will lead to a long-term reduction in metal loading in ground and surface water. The company will also solve sedimentation issues by repairing Blowout Creek.

I urge you to approve the project as outlined by Midas Gold in alternative 2, it is the best of the alternatives outlined by the USFS. The Stibnite Gold Project will provide a huge benefit to our community and the local environment.

Thanks for your time, Patricia Phelps

Name: Patricia Phelps