

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 9/16/2020 6:00:00 AM

First name: Larry

Last name: Taylor

Organization:

Title:

Comments: Thank you for the opportunity to provide feedback on the Stibnite Gold Project as part of the public permitting process. I know this project will have a positive impact on the environment, communities surrounding the site and Idahoans.

I have reviewed the Plan of Restoration and Operations and I believe the Stibnite Gold Project is an opportunity to repair the environment and bring an economic boost to the community. As proposed in Alternative 2, the project finances environmental reclamation and provides the workforce and resources necessary to complete it. If Midas Gold isn't allowed to move forward with its plan, this area in Idaho's backcountry will continue to suffer. Currently, salmon are being blocked from their native spawning grounds and hundreds of tons of sediment are pouring into the watershed each year. It is time to address these issues and Midas Gold has the right plan to do it. According the Forest Service's own analysis in 4.12 of the draft Environmental Impact Statement, the increased access Midas Gold will provide to feeding and refuge areas for anadromous fish, such as chinook salmon, can improve productivity of the species. In appendix A of the document, you can see Midas Gold is committed to minimizing disturbances to wildlife during the project and improving the region once mining is complete. In reviewing the document, I think the company is taking the steps needed to protect the area and mine the area safely in Alternative 2.

Midas Gold Idaho wants to invest \$1 billion in our state, bring more than 1,000 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 pick alternative 2 as the preferred alternative moving forward.