

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 9/17/2020 6:00:00 AM

First name: Justin

Last name: Garrett

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.

Midas Gold Idaho is not your typical mining company. The company realizes the Stibnite Gold Project site has been damaged after nearly a century of mining and that something must be done if we ever want to reclaim this brownfield site. Midas Gold Idaho wants to restore the site and take care of the environment through mining. I believe alternative 2 as outlined by the U.S. Forest Service is the best chance to help the repair the historic Stibnite Mining District. This alternative will result in better water quality in the East Fork of the South Fork of the Salmon River due to lower concentrations of antimony, mercury and arsenic (DEIS 4.9-70). An additional 26.5 km of habitat for anadromous salmonoids becomes available before mining begins with the construction of the fish passageway around the Yellow Pine pit (DEIS 4.12-13). Alternative 2 would also provide a net gain of 11.1 km of intrinsic potential habitat for steelhead trout and 12.4 km for bull trout (DEIS 4.12-22). These are benefits that should be fully recognized.

This project is a huge opportunity for Idaho. I encourage the U.S. Forest Service to permit alternative 2 so this brownfield site can finally be restored. The comment period has been extended once already. Sixty days gives Idahoans enough time to submit their comments and I hope there will be no additional delays.