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Comments: I have been closely following Midas Gold Idaho's plans for several years. I am excited to finally have the opportunity to comment on their Draft EIS. Midas Gold Idaho presents a huge opportunity for the Gem State.

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.

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 preferred alternative presented by Midas Gold, as expeditiously as possible.