

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 9/18/2020 6:00:00 AM

First name: Mark

Last name: Morris

Organization:

Title:

Comments: I appreciate the opportunity to comment on the Stibnite Gold Project as it will directly impact me and my access to the backcountry.

I am impressed with the Midas Gold's current dedication to repairing legacy environmental issues at the site from mining activity that took place on and off for more than 100 years. This is a major investment. Government agencies would not have the budget to perform all the necessarily reclamation work. This private/public partnership is the right approach for Idaho and will solve environmental issues while providing the area with a significant economic boost. In reviewing the DEIS, it is clear to me Alternative 2 presents the best option to protect Idaho's environment. It limits the footprint of the project, eliminates the West End development rock storage facility and extends the lining in Meadow Creek to protect against streamflow reductions. Alternative 3 proposes relocating the tailings storage facility to more pristine habitat on site and would leave the existing tailings unprocessed. This would mean we would miss out on key potential impacts of the project. According to DEIS chapter 4, section 4.9, removing legacy tailings and managing water quality provides long-term reduction in metal loading in ground and surface water. Current arsenic and antimony levels are too high, we cannot miss out on these benefits. I urge you to select Alternative 2.

It is with this knowledge that I encourage the U.S. Forest Service to select Alternative 2 Midas Gold Idaho presented and permit the project.