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First name: Cammeron

Last name: Kinzer

Organization:

Title:

Comments: Today I write in support of alternative two of the PRO put forward for Midas Gold Idaho and the Stibnite Gold Project in Valley County. I had the privilege to tour the site while working for my last employer and know the benefits it will bring to the local area and the state of Idaho.

Midas Gold offers a solution that provides much needed investment to the Salmon River and commitments to responsible mining. Midas Gold's project will restore fish populations for generations to come. Without this investment, the site will remain in disrepair from past mining damage. Midas has a plan and vision to restore the site and they have been transparent from the start about their goals in restoring the area.

During and after World War II, the East Fork South Fork of the Salmon River was diverted into a surface channel, where the Yellow Pine pit was mined through in the early 1950's. After the mining project was complete, the river flooded back into the pit, preventing migrating fish access to the passage upstream of the pit. Regrettably, fish like Chinook salmon, steelhead and bull trout are cut off from miles of additional high-mountain spawning habitat.

While the trap and haul programs that are used today will occasionally transport adult salmon upstream of the pit, there is a high mortality rate. This project is designed to provide a solution for migrating fish - both during the project and after it. Midas Gold has engineered a temporary fish passageway, which will accommodate a wide range of flow for the upstream passage of adult salmon, steelhead, and bull trout and the downstream passage of adults and juveniles of all species. The tunnel will include ambient light that naturally eases the transitions at both the entrances and exits. As your draft environmental impact statement concluded, their plans will largely help fish. In Chapter 4, the EIS states that long-term access to historically blocked critical habitat would result in increased productivity as well as diversity of fish populations. (4.12-33)

Midas Gold is willing to invest millions of private funding to restore our rivers and benefit the wildlife which inhabits them. This investment will benefit all of Idaho and I ask for your support.