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Comments: For as long back as I can remember, I have always been concerned with problems at the Stibnite Mining District. While I was at first skeptical about another mining company coming in with plans to redevelop the site, I truly believe the project plan for the Stibnite Gold Project as proposed in Alternative 2 by Midas Gold could be just the thing this area needs to fix some of the historical problems that have plagued this area.

Particularly when it comes to protecting local fish in the Salmon River, Alternative 2 presents the most effective solution out of any that were reviewed in the Draft Environmental Impact Study conducted by the U.S. Forest Service. According to this plan, Midas Gold will help struggling fish populations get reconnected to their former spawning grounds that they have been cut off from for 80+ years.

Their proposed solution is two-fold-first, they will build an innovative tunnel nearly one mile long to help fish like the local steelhead, bull trout, and salmon reach new feeding and spawning grounds. Next, upon completion of the project, Midas will fully restore the part of the Salmon River that is currently unpassable for these fish, giving them permanent access to miles of feeding, spawning, and rearing habitat. As concluded by the DEIS, this increased access to feeding and refuge areas in critical habitat can improve overall productivity.

Alternative 2 is the optimal solution because it includes improvements that take extra precautions to protect more areas of salmon habitat while also providing greater safety measures than both Alternatives 3 and 4. I don't even consider Alternative 5 an option as inaction would be the worst possible thing for local fish populations as well as the entire surrounding environment.

Please adopt Alternative 2 in Midas Gold's proposal for the Stibnite Gold Project, and help us protect local fish for generations to come.