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Organization:

Title:

Comments: I am writing you to voice my full support for the Midas Gold Stibnite mining proposal. Their plan would create a lot of benefits for the area, fish and wildlife, and the people who live in and around Yellow Pine.

Water quality is a big issue for me, so you can guess how I feel about the Stibnite mining district. Really bad chemicals like arsenic from decades of environmentally unsound mining operations continue to leach into the East Fork of the South Fork of the Salmon River and other, smaller streams that flow into it.

We have to get the old tailings and other wastes under control and it sounds to me like Midas Gold has a workable plan to do that. In Chapter 4 of the Forest Service environmental impact statement, which I read, it clearly points out that pollutants spoiling water quality in the area would be significantly diminished.

I guess we could hire companies to go in there and do nothing but clean up mining wastes, without doing any further mineral extraction, but that seems like a mistake to me. To be perfectly honest, as an Idaho taxpayer I would rather have Midas Gold do that work for us, at no charge to Idahoans. In fact, their mining operations - which would be conducted in the modern, environmentally responsible ways things like that are done today - would pay us. Their mining project would create new tax revenues and provide people with living-wage jobs while cleaning the pollution out of the river.

I don't see how we can pass that up, it's just too good a deal. Their latest proposal, Alternative 2, is a sound plan. I respectfully ask you to lead your agency to give Midas Gold approval to put that plan into action as quickly as you can.