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Comments: I looked at the Forest Service draft EIS regarding the Midas Gold mining project proposal in the Yellow Pine area and came away convinced that it would provide some much-needed help for the East Fork of the South Fork of the Salmon River.

For example, the DEIS states that the project would remove tailings and waste from previous mining operations (that were not conducted by Midas), thereby lowering concentrations of antimony and arsenic in the area's water. Those actions would also improve water quality in Meadow Creek Valley.

You don't have to be a chemist or an environmental expert to know that lowering arsenic levels in streams is a good thing. That will safeguard the groundwater there too, protecting the water supply local residents need to live.

As a longtime resident of the area, I am very supportive of getting the mess at the Stibnite site cleaned up. Frankly, it's amazing that nothing has been done to fix it before. Everyone who is familiar with the situation up there knows that it is a disaster that threatens the health and wellbeing of fish, animals, and people.

I've also looked at the various alternatives Midas has proposed and #2 is by far the best. It's an improvement on #1 because it incorporates input from local citizens. It does less damage to other sites that have not been impacted by mining, and minimizes truck traffic better, than #3 or #4. And, of course, it is far superior to #5, which does nothing.

Unfortunately, #5 represents the strategy we have used up until now, which is why we are in the mess we are in today. Please give Midas Gold USFS approval for this project and clean up our water.