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First name: Nikki

Last name: Miller

Organization:

Title:

Comments: I'm writing to encourage your support for the Stibnite Gold Project. I have been watching the progress Midas Gold has made to restore the environment even before this project begins over the years and feel as though their plan as described in Alternative 2 is the best solution to improve the area and restore the local ecosystem, particularly when it comes to improving the water quality that has been allowed to deteriorate so much.

One of the biggest factors contributing to the poor water quality in the Stibnite Mining District is the large amount of tailings and waste rock that has been left lying exposed in Meadow Creek Valley. As water passes over these materials, it results in metals like arsenic and antimony leaching into the surface and groundwater. It has gotten to the point where the levels of these metals are far too high for aquatic life standards.

To address this, Midas Gold has committed to picking up these tailings and waste rock—all 10+ tons of them. The company will be reusing, reprocessing, and properly storing all of these materials in an environmentally responsible way, separating them from further interaction with the river or ground water to help ensure this isn't an issue moving forward.

According to your own agency's environmental impact statement, removing these materials will improve water quality; as stated in chapter four, removing legacy tailings and managing water provides long-term reduction in metal loading in ground and surface water (4.9).

Alternative 2 offers the best possible solution to improve water quality. Not only would Alternatives 3 and 4 result in lengthy delays, but Alternative 3 would also place a new tailings storage facility in a less safe location, expanding the footprint of the project. Also, Alternative 4 would keep site access roads where they are today, increasing the risk of spills and sediment delivery to local streams and the Salmon River.

After years of inaction, we cannot afford to wait any longer. Please approve Alternative 2 for the Stibnite Gold Project as soon as possible.