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Organization:

Title:

Comments: TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide feedback on the Stibnite Gold Project as part of Midas Gold Idaho's Comment Period.

I received this suggested letter/comment following these first two paragraphs in a mailing from a friend who, like me, has been a part of the mining industry through out North and South America for over 40 years. I have truly been following the process of the Stibnite Project and have been impressed with their innovative approach to repair and mitigation of the environmental challenges left by previous miners. I whole heartedly concur with the statements made in this letter.

Past mining operations followed the regulations and standards that were in place at the time the operations were conducted and were ceased. In the later years, the environmental standards have changed. Midas are taking it upon them selves to mitigate the environmental challenges left by past mining operations and lower standards of environmental protection and conservation. Approval of the Midas Alternative 2 of the Stibnite Gold Project is a definite Win/Win for the people of Idaho and the environmental health of this sensitive part of Idaho.

I have been closely following Midas Gold Idaho's plans since they first came into our state, in large part because much of the proposed project will take place on public land. The more I have learned about the project, the more excited I am about the possibilities it will bring into our state.

Midas Gold Idaho has been studying Stibnite for nearly a decade. During this time, the company discovered arsenic and antimony levels in the groundwater far exceed human health standards at multiple points across the site. Fortunately, the Stibnite Gold Project is designed to address this issue. In the company's Water Quality Management Plan, Midas can lower levels of arsenic and antimony in the river and cause concentrations to be lower than what we see at the site today (DEIS 4.9-70). Additionally, Midas Gold has comprehensive plans to help restore critical waterways and habitat for fish in this region. According to the draft EIS, an additional 26.5 km of habitat for anadromous salmonoids becomes available before mining even begins with the construction of the fish passageway around the Yellow Pine pit (DEIS 4.12). Alternative 2 would also provide a net gain of 11.1 km of intrinsic potential habitat for steelhead trout and 12.4 km for bull trout. These benefits should be fully recognized and supported by the U.S. Forest Service.

After reading my letter, I hope you can see why you should permit alternative 2 of the Stibnite Gold Project. This project is a good thing for Idaho, helps decrease America's dependence on foreign countries for critical minerals and cleans up the environment. These benefits cannot wait. Sixty days is long enough for the comment period.