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First name: Tanner

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Organization:

Title:

Comments: Linda Jackson,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide my feedback as part of Midas Gold Idaho's public permitting process.

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.

Also, while some of the Stibnite Gold Project will take place on public lands, Midas Gold has made a commitment to the community to ensure access is preserved to people's favorite places. The company has promised to provide parking for winter recreationalists at their maintenance facility and submitted an additional plan to the U.S. Forest Service to allow Idahoans to continue to use Stibnite Road throughout the life of the project when it is safe.

Furthermore, the Stibnite Gold Project will be a major producer of gold and antimony. Today, we import almost all of our antimony from China. The U.S. government recently named antimony to its list of critical minerals because of its importance in the national defense and aerospace industries. The Stibnite Gold Project would be the only source of primary antimony production in the country.

I would like to thank the U.S. Forest Service for providing the opportunity, and sufficient time, to comment on this important project's permitting process. I hope the U.S. Forest Service will realize the benefits of this project and permit the Stibnite Gold Project using Alternative 2.