

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 10/14/2020 6:00:00 AM

First name: Michael

Last name: Dufresne

Organization:

Title: Master of Science, PGeol

Comments: Greetings,

I have been closely following Midas Gold Idaho's plans for several years. I am excited to finally have the opportunity to comment on their Draft EIS. Midas Gold Idaho presents a huge opportunity for the Gem State.

As the East Fork of the South Fork of the Salmon River that passes through Stibnite, it must travel by 10.5 million tons of old, spent ore deposits and tailings materials from decades of mining activity. As you can imagine, this degrades water quality in the river. Midas Gold Idaho will remove, reuse, and reprocess these tailings and waste rock, which your own draft environmental impact statement says will help the local ecosystem by reducing the high concentrations of metals that have leached into the water. In Chapter 4 of the draft EIS, it says removing legacy tailings and waste lowers concentrations of antimony and arsenic in the East Fork South Fork of the Salmon River (4.9-70).

I urge you to approve the project as outlined by Midas Gold in Alternative 2, it is the best of the alternatives outlined by the USFS. The Stibnite Gold Project will provide a huge benefit to our community and the local environment. The USFS has taken meaningful measures to ensure the public has had enough time and resources during the public comment period.