

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

First name: John W

Last name: Roberts

Organization:

Title:

Comments: Dear Ms. Linda Jackson,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide feedback on the Stibnite Gold Project as part of Midas Gold Idaho's Draft Environmental Impact Statement. Public participation is a huge part of the permitting process and I appreciate the opportunity to share my thoughts.

The Stibnite Gold Project is an opportunity to address high amounts of sedimentation and drainage of the wetlands that happened as a result of the dam failure at Blowout Creek in the 1960s. This has caused extensive, ongoing erosion for decades and the effects are concerning for fish habitat and water quality. Midas Gold intends to address these issues by repairing the damage and installing a French drain at the site of the old dam to permanently keep sediment out of the river and restore wetlands. According to the U.S. Forest Service's own draft environmental impact statement, their plan for mitigation and restoration will help address this issue. Chapter 4 states that proposed mitigation will provide 1:1 replacement of wetland acres (4.11.2.3.1.1-2).

Midas Gold Idaho wants to invest \$1 billion in our state, bring more than 1,000 jobs to rural Idaho and still provide access to Idaho's public lands. It goes beyond employment at the mine. The amount of work generated through contractors, outsourced engineering services, providers of materials needed to complete projects, and trucking services, heavy equipment sales, etc., will have a profound impact on the economy. This is the type of project our state needs. And with the coronavirus, we need it now more than ever.

The USFS has provided sufficient time to review the document and provide comments. It is time to move forward. I highly encourage the U.S. Forest Service to pick alternative 2 as the preferred alternative for the Stibnite Gold Project.