

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 10/15/2020 6:00:00 AM

First name: Nils

Last name: Johnson

Organization:

Title:

Comments: Dear Payette National Forest Supervisor,

I appreciate the opportunity to comment on the Stibnite Gold Project as it will directly impact me and my access to the backcountry.

Midas Gold is very aware of the water quality concerns at site and has been sampling it for years. They've found very high arsenic and antimony levels in certain areas, in some cases 700 times worse than what is considered safe. To address these issues, the company will remove legacy tailings and other waste that cause this issue. Overall, Alternative 2 seems to cover every risk factor possible; it improves upon the company's original 2016 plan, which they adjusted following feedback, and it is superior to Alternatives 3 and 4, which have more safety concerns and could cause delays. And of course, it is better than Alternative 5, which is to do nothing; we cannot afford that approach after all these years.

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. 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.