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First name: Senator Ric

Last name: Branch

Organization:

Title: Senator Emeritus

Comments: Usfs,

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

I am pleased to see Midas Gold wants to take responsibility and clean up the damage left behind by mining operations in the early 20th Century [acirc][euro]" even though the company was not involved in any of the previous activity at the site. Midas Gold has a plan to reunite salmon and trout with their spawning grounds for the first time in 80 years. Their plan for the East Fork of the South Fork of the Salmon River over the backfilled Yellow Pine pit will recreate natural conditions as close as possible. They plan to provide permanent access to approximately 25 miles of perennial stream and 6 miles of anadromous fish spawning habitat, and the company has agreed to install a temporary artificial fish passageway that will allow fish to swim past the old mining pit before mining even begins.

Midas Gold wants to restore the rivers, wildlife and habitat near the Stibnite Gold Project site. We should let them. The Forest Service has given meaningful time to review the document and comment. Further extensions are not necessary and will only hurt Idahoans by delaying the benefits of the project. Please permit Alternative 2 of the Stibnite Gold Project as outlined in the draft Environmental Impact Statement.