

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 10/16/2020 6:00:00 AM

First name: Bill

Last name: Sutherland

Organization:

Title:

Comments: As a U.S. citizen and Idaho resident, I appreciate the opportunity to participate in the public comment process concerning the Stibnite Gold Project (SGP). I also wish to acknowledge the work completed by your office, in conjunction with other state and federal agencies, to complete the (draft) Environmental Impact Statement (EIS).

Central Idaho is fortunate to have substantial mineral wealth-and I believe these resources should be accessible. But access must come with responsibility and integrity. In my mind, Midas Gold is approaching this project with an appropriate recognition that it must serve the region-and the environment-if it seeks to benefit from local mineral resources.

Midas Gold 's Alternative 2 plan improves on its original plan (Alternative 1) by responding to community concerns. Further, Midas has made it a point to work with local companies. In other words, they have already demonstrated their commitment to the regional community. That is mainly because their employees are our friends and neighbors. Idaho is their home too.

Midas Gold of course has developed extensive plans for how and where it will mine. But Alternative 2 stands out for its plans not for mining per se, but for environmental mitigation and reclamation. The company admirably seems as much an environmental services company as a mining company.

Overall, I believe that 60 days is plenty of time to review the draft EIS and clearly see Midas Gold is willing to go above and beyond to make sure responsibility and integrity are at the forefront of their plans.

I am particularly supportive of Alternative 2 for the following three environmental projects:

- \* Repair of the East Fork South Fork of the Salmon River- Midas Gold will restore access for salmon to their native spawning grounds on the Salmon River by removing the current blockade at the Yellow Pine mining pit.
- \* Removal and Storage of Tailings-Midas Gold will reduce harmful materials from entering local water by removing and storing tailings and other waste from historic mine sites.
- \* Repair of Blowout Creek Area-Even though Midas Gold will not be mining in the Blowout Creek vicinity, the company has committed to repairing the damage caused by the 1965 earthen dam failure, which has left a scarred landscape and pours sediment into Meadow Creek.

It is worth noting that these environmental repairs will be made without costing taxpayers a dime. Midas Gold has jumped through hoops, crossed i's, and dotted t's. It is time for approving this project without any delay.

Thank you.