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Title:

Comments: The Midas Gold proposal to mine the Stibnite district and simultaneously clean the past environmental damage done to the East Fork of the South Fork of the Salmon River and surrounding areas makes sense to me. I care about the environment and ecosystems and think Midas Gold's plan will do a lot of very good things for them. I would like to see the Forest Service approve this project immediately.

It makes me sick to see what has happened to the old mining sites around Stibnite/Yellow Pine. The tailing piles are full of hazardous materials that just sit there, uncontained, constantly leaking toxins into the soil, our water supply, and wetland areas. Anyone who knows anything about wildlife and habitat understands how vital wetlands are, and those old mining wastes are destroying them a little bit more every day.

Midas Gold's plan #2 would make major improvements in regard to the tailings. It would clean up and contain the estimated 10.5 million tons of old tailings and waste rock in the area. It would also address the sediment that flows into the river and adjacent streams, another threat to the long-term viability of local wetlands.

Chapter4 of the DEIS talks about the benefits of removing legacy tailings and waste, as Midas has proposed. I have faith in the USFS when it comes to environmental assessments and am sure you have the science that backs up those findings.

As you know, there are five different plan alternatives. The 2nd is an improvement on the first, incorporating local input, and does a better job of reducing additional site impact and traffic congestion than Alternatives 3 and 4. Alternative 5, which maintains the status quo, should not even be considered as the status quo is a catastrophe. Alternative 2 also moves forward filling in the pit lakes by several years, which is exactly what should happen. I vote for Alternative Plan2.

I have heard some discussion of extending the comment period. I say no to that. We've talked about this problem long enough. The Midas Gold plan is smart and effective, and should be moved now.