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Organization:

Title:

Comments: Ms. Jackson,

I am writing in support of the Stibnite Gold Project and the benefits it will bring to Idaho. This project has the potential to put hundreds of Idahoans to work, bring a \$1 billion investment into our state and restore an area of Idaho's backcountry desperately in need of repair.

More than 10 million tons of spent ore and unlined tailings from previous mining are sitting, unlined in the valley near Meadow Creek at the site of the proposed Stibnite Gold Project. As water flows over this waste material, metals leach into the ground and surface. Therefore, we should not be surprised that the amount of arsenic and antimony in water near site vastly exceed levels that are considered acceptable for aquatic life standards. Midas Gold has a plan to mitigate the impacts of previous, unaffiliated mining projects to improve water quality and fish habitat. Among many other investments, Midas Gold would clean up the roughly 3 million tons of historical tailings and reprocess and properly store them in a state-of-the-art tailings facility. The company would also relocate the 7.5 million tons of used ore underneath the tailings facility liner system permanently separating it from interacting with water. These efforts to remove legacy materials will improve water quality, a finding reflected in your own agency's draft environmental impact statement. According to chapter 4, removing legacy tailings and waste improves water quality in Meadow Creek Valley (4.12 103-104).

As the U.S. Forest Service and other state and federal agencies review the proposed plan and determine the course of action, I encourage you to consider and appropriately weigh the positive benefits Midas Gold will have on Idaho. We need to move this project ahead after the 60-day comment period. Alternative Two truly is a win-win opportunity for Idahoans and the environment.