

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 10/21/2020 6:00:00 AM

First name: Sakena

Last name: Lesmeister

Organization: Western States CAT

Title:

Comments: I am proud to have Midas Gold Idaho in our state and proud to support the Stibnite Gold Project, as an employee of Western State CAT and a native Idahoan. I hope you will take the time to consider my comments on why you should move to permit the project.

I am impressed with the Midas Gold's current dedication to repairing legacy environmental issues at the site from mining activity that took place on and off for more than 100 years. This is a major investment. Government agencies would not have the budget to perform all the necessarily reclamation work. This private/public partnership is the right approach for Idaho and will solve environmental issues while providing the area with a significant economic boost. In reviewing the DEIS, it is clear to me Alternative 2 presents the best option to protect Idaho's environment. It limits the footprint of the project, eliminates the West End development rock storage facility and extends the lining in Meadow Creek to protect against streamflow reductions.

Alternative 3 proposes relocating the tailings storage facility to more pristine habitat on site and would leave the existing tailings unprocessed. This would mean we would miss out on key potential impacts of the project. According to DEIS chapter 4, section 4.9, removing legacy tailings and managing water quality provides long-term reduction in metal loading in ground and surface water. Current arsenic and antimony levels are too high, we cannot miss out on these benefits. I urge you to select Alternative 2. The 100 million pounds of antimony this site is estimated to produce would be the only domestically source antimony in the country. A mineral critical to national defense, aerospace and energy industries.

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 2 truly is a win-win opportunity for Idahoans and the environment.