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Organization: Western States CAT

Title:

Comments: I am writing in support of the Stibnite Gold Project. As an employee of Western State CAT, I thank you for the opportunity to provide my feedback as part of the National Environmental Policy Act.

Having compared Alternative 2 with Alternative 3, I believe that Alternative 2 is better from an environmental perspective, having less area, less impact on wetlands based on functional units, less impact on stream reach and avoiding a costly two-year delay to the project. I also believe that Alternative 2 is lower risk and environmentally less impactful and risky than Alternative 4 given the proximity of the Alternative 4 transportation route to major fish-bearing waterways where construction would pose a significant risk, and delay the project unnecessarily for two additional years at considerable cost. Finally, Alternative S is the worst of all alternatives as it means no environmental restoration, no jobs, no capital investment and leaves environmental issues at site unresolved.

As an Idahoan and member of this industry, the plan that Midas Gold has put forward to restore an area badly damaged by past mining and bring economic opportunity to the region is a win-win to me. 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.