

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

First name: Savannah

Last name: Taggart

Organization: Western States CAT

Title:

Comments: I am writing to express my full support of Midas Gold Idaho and the Stibnite Gold Project. As an employee of Western States CAT, who has worked alongside Midas Gold I've seen their commitment to Valley County and the state of Idaho. I encourage you to adopt the proposed activities outlined in Alternative 2 during the permitting process for the reasons below.

The economic value of this project can not be overlooked. The Project alone would bring over 500 jobs to the area with average annual salaries ranging from \$42 million to \$49 million during construction and \$48 million to \$51 million during operations. The indirect jobs it will bring will help so many local business, like the one I work for.

Midas Gold has made it clear reclamation efforts will start alongside operations. Before mining ever begins, fish will be reconnected to their native spawning groups upstream through a fish passageway. Eventually, the river can be permanently reconnected by the backfilling of Yellow Pine Pit and restoration of the area. Analysis in the draft Environmental Impact Statement showed removing existing barriers to fish migration will help Chinook salmon, bull trout and Steelhead. In fact, DEIS 4.12-39 says long-term access to blocked habitat would result in increased genetic diversity of isolated populations and productivity.

Midas Gold wants to restore the rivers, wildlife and habitat near the Stibnite Gold Project site, and bring great economic opportunity to the region. We should let them. Please permit the Stibnite Gold Project under Alternative 2 and continue to move this important project forward.