

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

First name: Andy

Last name: Koeppen

Organization: Western States CAT

Title:

Comments: Thank you for the opportunity to comment on Midas Gold Idaho's Alternative 2. Over the last several years, I've had the opportunity to hear a handful of presentations on the Stibnite Gold Project, work alongside project staff and observe how the company has lived out its mission as it has grown. It is with this knowledge that I encourage you to permit the Stibnite Gold Project.

Midas Gold Idaho wants to invest \$1 billion in our state, bring more than hundreds of jobs to rural Idaho and still provide access to Idaho's public lands. This is the type of project our state needs for the economy and the environment.

There are many checks and balances in place to ensure Midas Gold Idaho follows through on its promises to restore the site. In fact, the company is required by law to set aside all of the money it needs for restoration before mining can begin. However, I am not worried about Midas Gold Idaho staying true to its word. The company has already started restoration work at the site. They have planted more than 60,000 trees to help reduce the amount of sediment going into the river, installed solar energy panels at site to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and improved miles of road along the river to protect fish habitat. Alternative 2 appears to be the best option for the project moving forward. In that alternative, the company decreased traffic during operations by 26 percent by generating lime on site (table 2.3-2, 2.4-3, 2.3-8). The company would also reprocess legacy materials in the Meadow Creek Basin, SODA and Hecla Heap, which remove them as a source for leaching arsenic and antimony into the ground and surface water. The to analysis in the document (4.9-17) shows this will make further water degradation from these sources less likely in the future. Removing legacy tailings waste will also improve water quality in Meadow Creek Valley (4.12).

This Stibnite Gold Project is a huge opportunity for Idaho. Please permit alternative 2 and continue moving the project forward so our citizens can reap the positive impacts.