

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

First name: Justin

Last name: Simmons

Organization: Western States CAT

Title:

Comments: Thank you for the opportunity to provide feedback on the Stibnite Gold Project as part of Midas Gold Idaho's comment period. I have been closely following Midas Gold Idaho's plans since we started work with them several years ago, in my position at Western State CAT. The more I have learned about the project, the more excited I am about the possibilities for the future.

Midas Gold has been a devoted member of our community who stands by their role as a good corporate citizen and supports initiatives around the environment and community health. In 2018 alone, Midas Gold put more than \$300,000 in road maintenance activities to improve infrastructure and keep Idahoans safe.

By law Midas Gold Idaho is required to set aside all of the money needed for restoration prior to any mining activity. This gives me, and all Idahoans, peace of mind that the restoration work the company has discussed will come to fruition no matter what happens. If Midas Gold Idaho is allowed to move forward with its work, salmon will be reconnected to their native spawning grounds for the first time in 80 years! The DEIS concluded that 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 productivity and genetic diversity of isolated populations. Mining has devastated this area. Midas Gold Idaho wants to fix it and I hope you will clear the path to allow their restoration work to move forward.

In reading the DEIS, it is clear Alternative 2 will be the best alternative for the environment and for Idaho. I encourage the U.S. Forest Service to select Alternative 2 and permit the project.