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Comments: I am writing to share my thoughts on Midas Gold Idaho's Stibnite Gold project. There are many reasons why I am excited for Midas Gold's project to come to life and I hope through my comments you will understand why.

The Stibnite Gold Project is estimated to cost roughly \$1.1 billion to build and an additional ~\$230 million a year to operate. According to a Highlands Economic Impact Analysis, this would inject hundreds of millions of dollars into Idaho's economy, bring hundreds of jobs into the state and contribute significant in local and state tax revenue. Many local businesses in our area would benefit greatly from this project, including my company, Western State CAT.

Midas Gold has made it clear reclamation efforts will start alongside operations. They plan to reconnect fish to their native spawning groups upstream through a fish passageway, before mining every begins. Once mining is complete, the Yellow Pine Pit will be backfilled and the river can be permanently reconnected. Analysis in the draft Environmental Impact Statement showed removing existing barriers to fish migration will help Chinook salmon, bull trout and Steel head. In fact, DEIS 4.12-39 says long-term access to blocked habitat would result in increased genetic diversity of isolated populations and productivity. They have also worked to find safe access routes to the site that keeps vehicles away from important waterways. Additionally, under alternative 2, the company decreased traffic during operations by 26 percent by generating lime on site (table 2.3-2, 2.4-3, 2.3-8). Plus, the company is trying to minimize their impact on the environment by keeping facilities within the existing footprint of historic mining operations.

Midas Gold has provided several documents and opportunities for the public to review their project and the Draft Environmental Impact Statement. The USFS has even created a virtual reading room for the community to access information and extended the comment period an additional 15 days already. This is ample opportunity and time for the public to weigh in.

After reading my letter, I hope you can see why you should permit the Stibnite Gold Project. This project is a good thing for Idaho and a good thing for the environment.