

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

First name: Steve

Last name: Pugmire

Organization: Western States CAT

Title:

Comments: I am an employee of Western States CAT and am excited to comment on the Stibnite Gold Project Draft Environmental Impact Statement. I have been closely following Midas Gold Idaho's plans for several years and believe it presents a huge opportunity for the Gem State.

The Stibnite Gold Project is good for the Idaho workforce. The salaries of the positions at the Stibnite Gold Project will be approximately two times higher than typical jobs in Valley County. During operations, annual payroll at site would range from \$48 million to \$51 million. The financial security and on-the-job training opportunities these positions bring has the potential to bring meaningful change to families throughout the region. Additionally, we know mining brings more than jobs and robust wages to our state, it promotes the development of secondary businesses and the production of more goods and materials right here in Idaho.

The project is also a win for the environment. Under Alternative 2, Midas Gold will pick up and reprocess these legacy tailings, which will reduce long-term metal loading in the ground and surface water (DEIS 4.9). This would be a huge improvement over conditions at site today, where arsenic and antimony levels in some places at site are 700 times higher than drinking standards.

Midas Gold's strong commitment to hiring locally and using local vendors and suppliers will help build our economic base and is a win for companies like Western State CAT. Their plan to restore the site will not be done by public means and should be commended. I hope the U.S. Forest Service will realize the benefits this project can bring to Idaho and permit the Stibnite Gold Project using alternative 2.