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Title:

Comments: I am writing in support of the Stibnite Gold Project. Thank you for the opportunity to provide my feedback as part of the National Environmental Policy Act.

As it stands today, the Stibnite Gold Project site is a brownfield site. The U.S. government tried to restore the area years ago but the work that was done didn't go far enough. The old tailings piles left by previous mining companies are still unconstrained presenting a risk of leaching minerals into nearby streams and the groundwater. 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 win for the site and go a long way to removing legacy impacts. Midas Gold's water treatment during operations will further lower levels of these metals in the river and cause concentrations to be below the current baseline conditions (DEIS 4.9-70). Each year, hundreds of tons of sediment continue to be dumped into the East Fork of the South Fork of the Salmon River and other waterways from Blowout Creek, impacting water quality and aquatic habitat. And fish still are not able to swim past the Yellow Pine pit to their natural spawning grounds. When fish are reconnected to more habitat upstream, 4.2-39 of the DEIS shows it will increase productivity and diversity of these isolated populations. This area needs to be remediated and Midas Gold has a plan to do it the right way.

As an employee of Western State CAT, I've seen firsthand that Midas Gold does what they say they are going to do. And, as an avid outdoorsman I want to see this area of our state cleaned up. I believe Midas Gold can do that and I urge you to permit Midas Gold's carefully thought out plan as outlined under alternative 2.