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Organization: Western States CAT

Title:

Comments: I am writing in support of the Midas Gold Stibnite Mining Project and I would like to urge the U.S. Forest Service to approve the proposed alternative two. This project includes a plan to benefit the state of Idaho's economy and a parallel environmental plan to enhance the water quality of the Salmon River.

As a CAT employee, the economic impact of the project sticks out to me. Local impacts on the economy from Midas Gold's direct job creation are estimated at \$18.1 million per year during construction, \$18.5 million per year during operations and \$3.6 million per year during reclamation. Also, based on the 2014 Pre-Feasibility Study, over the life of the project, total life-of-mine direct, indirect and induced taxes from the Stibnite Gold Project are estimated at \$506 million at the federal level and \$218 million in state and local taxes

The water quality in the Stibnite Mining District has been damaged from previous mining projects that were irresponsible and left the place in ruins. Midas Gold has carefully evaluated the site over the past decade, collecting water samples that have shown high arsenic and antimony levels, neither of which are considered acceptable for drinking water or aquatic life standards. Midas Gold has found a solution, by designing the Stibnite Gold Project to improve water quality, along with addressing other environmental concerns.

Additionally, Midas Gold plans to restore more than 12 miles of the East Fork of the South Fork of the Salmon River. This would include removing fish passage barriers to get salmon and trout back to their native spawning grounds. Midas Gold has researched the most efficient and ecological options, and has developed a temporary 0.9 mile long, fifteen-foot wide passageway to transport fish upstream during the project.

Midas Gold has my full support, as I believe they will bring value to our community. I urge you, the U.S. Forest Service, to consider these factors in making your final decision to approve Alternative 2 presented by Midas Gold Idaho.