

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 10/23/2020 6:00:00 AM

First name: Serge

Last name: Vanhalme

Organization:

Title:

Comments: I am writing to express my views on Midas Gold Idaho's Stibnite Gold Project. The opportunity presented by the Stibnite Gold Project is compelling for many reasons and it is a project I am committed to seeing come to fruition.

The Stibnite Gold Project is an opportunity to address high amounts of sedimentation and drainage of the wetlands that happened as a result of the dam failure at Blowout Creek in the 1960s. This has caused extensive, ongoing erosion for decades and the effects are concerning for fish habitat and water quality. Midas Gold intends to address these issues by repairing the damage and installing a French drain at the site of the old dam to permanently keep sediment out of the river and restore wetlands. According to the U.S. Forest Service's own draft environmental impact statement, their plan for mitigation and restoration will help address this issue. Chapter 4 states that proposed mitigation will provide 1:1 replacement of wetland acres (4.11.2.3.1.1-2).

The green light for the Stibnite Gold Project will be an exceptional opportunity to restore a natural habitat, in a relatively short term, with sufficient funding and with the help of local people who care about their environment. I'm personally very attached to the fact salmon could reach again their natural spawning grounds after 80 years. Too many damage have been done to this specy in the world. We have here, in Idaho, a unique chance to repair a bit this damage.

It is with this knowledge that I encourage the U.S. Forest Service to select the modified plan of restoration and operations Midas Gold Idaho presented, known as Alternative 2 in the draft Environmental Impact Statement, and permit the project.