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Organization:

Title:

Comments: I appreciate the opportunity to comment on the Stibnite Gold Project as it will directly impact me and my access to the backcountry.

Midas Gold Idaho has been studying Stibnite for nearly a decade. During this time, the company discovered arsenic and antimony levels in the groundwater far exceed human health standards at multiple points across the site. Fortunately, the Stibnite Gold Project is designed to address this issue. In the company's Water Quality Management Plan, Midas can lower levels of arsenic and antimony in the river and cause concentrations to be lower than what we see at the site today (DEIS 4.9-70). Additionally, Midas Gold has comprehensive plans to help restore critical waterways and habitat for fish in this region. According to the draft EIS, an additional 26.5 km of habitat for anadromous salmonoids becomes available before mining even begins with the construction of the fish passageway around the Yellow Pine pit (DEIS 4.12). Alternative 2 would also provide a net gain of 11.1 km of intrinsic potential habitat for steelhead trout and 12.4 km for bull trout. These benefits should be fully recognized and supported by the U.S. Forest Service.

I found the 60 days allotted and the digital tools provided by the USFS meaningful and sufficient for public review. Midas Gold wants to restore the rivers, wildlife and habitat near the Stibnite Gold Project site. We should let them. Please permit the Stibnite Gold Project and continue to move this important project forward.