

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 10/26/2020 6:00:00 AM

First name: Heather R

Last name: Black

Organization: Western States CAT

Title:

Comments: Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Stibnite Gold Project as part of the U.S. Forest Service's permitting process. This is an important project for Valley County and will have a significant impact on the community. As someone who works in the industry and explores, plays and cares about this region of Idaho's backcountry, I want to make sure the Stibnite Gold Project is done the right way.

The old Stibnite mine site will likely never be cleaned up unless industry takes responsibility for those who came before them. Midas Gold plans to do just that. By mining the site, Midas Gold plans to restore the natural flow and gradient of the East Fork of the South Fork to reconnect historical spawning grounds. The company will repair blowout creek, permanently solving a source of massive sedimentation and habitat degradation. Plus, in reprocessing and repurposing millions of tons of spent ore and unconstrained tailings, Midas will safeguard water quality indefinitely.

Midas Gold would also inject millions of dollars into the economy, providing over 1,000 direct jobs into the region and spin off thousands more. In fact, according to a study conducted in 2017, compensation on the Stibnite Gold Project would average approximately \$80,000 a year based on comparable operations in Idaho, as compared to \$35,000 in the area surrounding the project currently.

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.