

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

First name: Kelly

Last name: Lehan

Organization: Western States CAT

Title:

Comments: Thank you for the opportunity to provide feedback on the Stibnite Gold Project and the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). After reviewing the draft EIS, it is clear Midas Gold and their project is the perfect candidate to move forward. Which is why you should adopt alternative 2. As an employee with Western States CAT, I know their obvious attention to the land and willingness to hire locally will provide numerous economic and environmental benefits.

I appreciate the environment and sustainability. That is why I support the Stibnite Gold Project and the company's plan to use state of art technology and practices to fix years of environmental degradation left from previous mining projects . Midas Gold Idaho's planned efforts include cleaning up elevated metals in surface and ground waters, reversing the degradation of natural water ways, and restoring compromised fish habitats, waterways, and wet lands . Not only does Midas Gold Idaho plan on leaving the site in a better condition, but they will these plans will come completely from their own private investment at no cost to the taxpayer. Your draft EIS makes clear their solutions will be beneficial for Idaho. For example, chapter 4 indicates alternative 2 could help to increase productivity and diversity of these fish by opening up access to historically blocked habitat (DEIS 4.12-33).

The Stibnite Gold Project also embodies the notion that business and the environment can thrive together, as this project will clearly be a tremendous economic 'win' for the regional business community and people of Idaho. In total, the project will amount to a \$1 billion investment in Idaho. Over the 20 year duration of the project, it is estimated to generate approximately \$150 million in state and local tax revenues. The investment extends to the region's citizens as well, with approximately 500 positions that would employ Idaho residents.

I strongly urge the U.S. Forest Service to move forward with alternative 2 laid out in the proposal from Midas Gold Idaho.