

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

First name: Hunter

Last name: Wordian

Organization: Western States CAT

Title:

Comments: I am writing in support of the Stibnite Gold Project and the benefits it will bring to Idaho. This project has the potential to put hundreds of Idahoans to work, bring a \$1 billion investment into our state and restore an area of Idaho's backcountry desperately in need of repair.

As it stands today, the Stibnite Gold Project site is a brownfield site. The U.S. government tried to restore the area years ago but the work that was done didn't go far enough. The old tailings piles left by previous mining companies are still unconstrained and therefore present a risk of leaching minerals into nearby streams and the groundwater. Under Alternative 2, Midas Gold will pick up and reprocess these legacy tailings, which will reduce long-term metal loading in the ground and surface water (DEIS 4.9).

This would be a huge win for the. Each year, hundreds of tons of sediment continue to be dumped into the East Fork of the South Fork of the Salmon River and other waterways from Blowout Creek, impacting water quality and aquatic habitat. And fish still are not able to swim past the Yellow Pine pit to their natural spawning grounds. When fish are reconnected to more habitat upstream, 4.2-39 of the DEIS shows it will increase productivity and diversity of these isolated populations. This area needs to be remediated and Midas Gold has a plan to do it the right way.

I work for Western State CAT and have had the opportunity to work with Midas Gold on and off over the last several years. I've seen their dedication to transparency and their dedication to supporting initiatives that positively affect the environment and economic growth. As a company that holds these same values, it is important to us to work with companies that do the same.

As the U.S. Forest Service and other state and federal agencies review the proposed plan and determine the course of action, I encourage you to consider and appropriately weigh the positive benefits Midas Gold will have on Idaho. We need to move this project ahead after the 60-day comment period.

Alternative Two truly is a win-win opportunity for Idahoans and the environment.