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Comments: It is high time for someone to address the longstanding environmental issues festering at the Stibnite mine. That is why I am glad to see Midas Gold Idaho make a commitment to redeveloping this site responsibly while also restoring the local environment. The U.S. Forest Service should accept Alternative 2 as put forth by Midas.

Perhaps one of the saddest things that has happened as a result of previous, less regulated mining projects is that local fish like salmon and steelhead have been isolated from what should be their historical spawning grounds. This happened after part of the Salmon River was diverted, and later allowed to flow back over a large, open mine pit. Now, and for the past 80 something years, these fish have been unable to swim upstream past the exposed pit.

Midas Gold has looked at this problem and proposed to construct a temporary tunnel to allow local fish to access miles of upstream, cooler waters more suited for spawning. This tunnel is based on best practices learned from similar systems world-wide and would help local fish populations jumpstart their recovery even as mining operations are just beginning.

Then, once mining has completed at the site, Midas would fill in the exposed pit and restore the Salmon River to as close to its original condition as possible. In doing so, the company would remove physical barriers to fish migration permanently. These efforts to increase access to feeding and refuge areas in critical habitat can improve overall productivity for local fish, according to your own agency's Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

For the good of local fish and wildlife, I ask that you please approve Alternative 2 as soon as humanly possible. It is the most technically feasible solution as well as the one that provides the greatest benefit for local fish and wildlife.