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Comments: I have been waiting a long time for a solution to the long list of ecological problems at Stibnite Yellow Pine, and I believe we finally have a plan that will address these issues and then some. In order for that plan to come to fruition, the U.S. Forest Service must adopt Alternative 2 of Midas Gold's proposal for the Stibnite Gold Project.

The Stibnite Gold Project will help address the ongoing problems in the area, including the terrible water quality in Meadow Creek Valley. Midas Gold should know a thing or two about the water quality in this region because it has been around for the past decade monitoring and studying it. In doing so, it found extremely high levels of metals like antimony, arsenic and mercury that make the waters unsuitable for aquatic life or drinking.

This is most likely due to the more than 10 million tons of tailings and spent ore that are currently lying out unconstrained in Meadow Creek Valley. As water passes over these tailings and ore, metals seep into the water supply, threatening the quality of life for fish and wildlife. Fortunately, Midas Gold has a solution.

As described in Alternative 2 of their plan, the company will manually collect, reuse, reprocess, and store all 10 million-plus tons of old mining materials. Looking at the draft environmental impact statement, it was concluded that removing these legacy tailings and waste improves water quality in Meadow Creek Valley.

Moreover, the Tailings Storage Facility they have designed for the purpose of storing these mining by products moving forward has been designed to exceed safety measures required by state law. While the DEIS found that the location of this facility in Alternative 2 is suitable for the proposed structure, the same facility would be sited partially on the site of an old landslide area in Alternative 3. Surely that cannot be as safe.

I urge you to adopt Alternative 2 as it will provide the most effective solution to address issues like the poor water quality at Stibnite in the safest way possible.