

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 10/27/2020 6:00:00 AM

First name: Benjamin

Last name: Peersman

Organization:

Title:

Comments: USFS,

I am proud to submit my comments in support of Midas Gold Idaho's Stibnite Gold Project. This project presents our state with an incredible opportunity to bring well-paying jobs to rural Idaho, boost our state's economy and use private investment to clean up a brownfield site.

Midas Gold Idaho has been studying Stibnite for nearly a decade. During this time, the company discovered arsenic and antimony levels in the groundwater far exceed human health standards at multiple points across the site. Fortunately, the Stibnite Gold Project is designed to address this issue. In the company's Water Quality Management Plan, Midas can lower levels of arsenic and antimony in the river and cause concentrations to be lower than what we see at the site today (DEIS 4.9-70). Additionally, Midas Gold has comprehensive plans to help restore critical waterways and habitat for fish in this region. According to the draft EIS, an additional 26.5 km of habitat for anadromous salmonoids becomes available before mining even begins with the construction of the fish passageway around the Yellow Pine pit (DEIS 4.12). Alternative 2 would also provide a net gain of 11.1 km of intrinsic potential habitat for steelhead trout and 12.4 km for bull trout. These benefits should be fully recognized and supported by the U.S. Forest Service.

For the above reasons and many more, please move forward with alternative 2 of the Stibnite Gold Project as it is important to all Idahoans. The comment period provides plenty of time to read the DEIS and submit comments. Further extensions of the comment period are unnecessary and will needlessly delay the project.

Thank You,

Name: Benjamin Peersman