

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

First name: Robert

Last name: Hunter

Organization:

Title:

Comments: Dear Payette National Forest Staff,

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.

I am impressed by Midas Gold's plans to clean up water quality conditions at the site by removing sediment and old materials blocking the East Fork of the South Fork of the Salmon River. Today, steelhead and Chinook salmon cannot access spawning grounds because they are blocked by an abandoned mining pit. Midas will address this issue before mining even begins - reconnecting fish for the first time in more than 80 years. The company will build a fish passageway in the short term and eventually restore full access to 25 miles of perennial stream and 6 miles of fish spawning habitat above the Yellow Pine pit. If we do not allow Midas Gold to move forward with their plans, it is highly unlikely anyone else will provide the funds needed to reconnect fish to this currently lost habitat.

I urge you to approve the project as outlined by Midas Gold in Alternative 2, it is the best of the alternatives outlined by the USFS. The Stibnite Gold Project will provide a huge benefit to our community and the local environment. The USFS has taken meaningful measures to ensure the public has had enough time and resources during the public comment period.

Most Respectfully,

Name: Robert Hunter