

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

First name: Laura

Last name: Wilson

Organization:

Title:

Comments: Dear Ms. Jackson,

I appreciate the opportunity to comment on the Stibnite Gold Project and it's impact to that area.

I have been aware of this project since 2011 and have been impressed with the integrity that Midas Gold has held regarding this project. 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.

Midas Gold has worked with all the agencies and met their requirements. There shouldn't be any more delays in this project. The positive impact this project will have is too great to put off any further. They are repairing the damage done by the old mine activities, the economic impact will be HUGE to that area, especially considering how COVID has shut down the tourist industry. Valley County relies so heavily on tourism, which is a service related industry, that wages to support a family are incredibly hard to come by. The Stibnite project will provide an abundant amount of skilled labor jobs that WILL provide wages that can support families of Valley County. I encourage the USFS to move the Stibnite Gold Project forward and permit Midas Gold Idaho's project as outlined in their Modified Plan of Restoration and Operations, alternative 2 in the DEIS. The USFS has provided meaningful time to submit comments and already extended the comment period once, there should be no further delays.

Sincerely,

Laura Wilson (former resident of McCall, ID)

Name: Laura Wilson