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Comments: It is critically important to the local fish and wildlife around Stibnite that the U.S. Forest Service approve Alternative Two of Midas Gold's plan for the Stibnite Gold Project as soon as possible. The unfortunate circumstances at Stibnite have been allowed to go on for too long; the time for action is now.

Among the many problems facing the area that Alternative Two would address, there is the matter of local fish like the Chinook salmon being isolated from their native spawning grounds upstream from the Yellow Pine Pit. Past mining remediation efforts were insufficient to protect local fish, but Midas Gold's vision for full restoration of the Salmon River upon completion of their proposed development would correct these mistakes.

First, in the short-term, the company would build a high-tech, specially engineered tunnel system running nearly a mile long that would allow salmon and other migratory fish to access new creeks and streams to feed, find refuge, and spawn. In the long-term, Midas Gold would go back in, fill the pit properly, and remove barriers to migration so that upstream passage is possible again.

This would reconnect local fish populations to miles of new habitat, and would be a vast improvement on the status quo. The U.S. Forest Service's draft Environmental Impact Statement found that to be true in chapter 4, where it states that increased access to feeding and refuge areas in critical habitat can improve overall productivity.

The U.S. Forest Service should move forward with this project by adopting Alternative 2, which was found to be both more technically feasible than other alternatives as well as more environmentally beneficial.

Thank you for considering my opinion. I hope you will make the right decision soon.